

*Hafa Adai!*

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Century Tours dismissed from law-  
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# Saipan Tribune

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75¢

## EPA: It's time for a CUC accounting

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency believes it is time to conduct a full accounting of funds or potential funds of some Commonwealth Utilities Corp. projects.

See EPA on **Page 4**

» **DOJ counsel wants CUC to provide information on funding under oath**

### 18TH HOUSE SINE DIE

## Members trumpet feats, reminisce, give advice

By **MARK RABAGO**  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The 18th House of Representatives ceased to exist around 12:13pm last Tuesday but members were allowed to give their final speeches before the

lower chamber adjourned its *sine die* session.

The farewell messages ranged from your garden variety salutations to fellow House members, the Senate, the Executive Branch, the Legislative Bureau; to reminiscing about

their first few days on the job; to dispensing advice to freshmen lawmakers; to coming up with a list of the accomplishments of the 18th House, and even pleas to returning and incoming lawmakers to craft and pass bills that didn't

make it into law in the 19th Legislature.

Rep. George Camacho (R-Saipan) got things going by saying the 18th House had a rocky start, referring to the impeachment of former governor  
See MEMBERS on **Page 4**



## Kilili sworn in for a 4th term in Congress

By **MARK RABAGO**  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan began his fourth term as the CNMI nonvoting representative to the 114th House of Representatives when he was sworn in at 2:23pm yesterday in Washington, D.C.

Sablan is the first and only official ever to represent the people of the CNMI in Congress.

"The responsibility I feel to improve the lives of the people I work for is as strong today as it was six years ago, when I first took the oath," Sablan said.

"And, as much as we have accomplished in these first years in office, I know there is still much more that can be achieved in the years to come."

Sablan said he is once more thankful to the people of the Commonwealth who again voted for him to represent them in Congress.

"Today and every day I enter the chamber of the U.S. House of Representatives, I am humbled to stand where so much of our nation's history has transpired, and humbled to realize that the people of the Northern

See KILILI on **Page 4**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

To take the oath of office from Speaker of the House John Boehner, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan places his hand on the Holy Bible provided for this purpose by the retired Rev. Tomas Camacho, former bishop of Chalan Kanoa. Holding the Bible is Sablan's wife, Andrea. Also pictured are Martha and Eric Sablan and family, Craig Cabrera, Patricia Sablan, Robert Schwalbach, Jude Marfil, and Erika Webb.

### INSIDE



#### BUSINESS

The shift toward online viewing is driving television makers to design TVs for streaming video.

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#### ASIA

Divers have spotted the tail of the missing AirAsia plane in the Java Sea.

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#### LIFE & STYLE

"American Idol" is practicing addition and subtraction in its 14th season.

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#### GOT A NEWS TIP?

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# Local

## Lord brings fees issue in Johnson class action to 9th Circuit

Betty Johnson's California-based counsel, Timothy Lord, is appealing to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit the federal court's denial of his attorney's fees and costs.

Lord wants the Ninth Circuit to reverse U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood order on Dec. 9, 2014, denying his petition for attorney's fees and costs.

Lord has notified the District Court last week about his appeal to the Ninth Circuit. He

did not provide other information in the notice.

In the Dec. 9 order, Tydingco-Gatewood approved the CNMI agreement to pay \$800,000 in attorney's fees and costs to Betty Johnson's original counsel, Bruce Jorgensen.

In a separate order that same day, Tydingco-Gatewood denied awarding fees to Johnson's other counsel, Lord.

Tydingco-Gatewood said having considered the CNMI government's and Jorgensen's stipulated motion for approval

of Jorgensen's fees, as well as all arguments and submissions, she finds the settlement agreement to be fair and reasonable.

The judge said the settlement agreement was reached after the parties in Johnson's class action participated in settlement talks with Hawaii chief bankruptcy judge Robert J. Faris.

With respect to Lord's petition for fees and costs, Tydingco-Gatewood said that Lord has not shown that his work produced a concrete beneficial result for the class.

Tydingco-Gatewood, however, stated that she is disappointed that Jorgensen did not include the work performed by Lord or his paralegal in his original fee petition or in his settlement discussions with the CNMI government, especially since it was he who sought

Lord's assistance during the initial stages of the litigation.

The judge said for reasons not completely clear to the court, Jorgensen and Lord parted ways on less than amicable terms.

Lord's initial demand for payment was either \$3.6 million or \$5.9 million. The

CNMI government opposed granting fees to Lord.

Tydingco-Gatewood had already approved the payment for Johnson's other counsels, Bronster Hoshibata law firm in the amount of \$6.5 million and Stephen Woodruff in the amount of \$185,000. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

## NMHC considers other sub-recipient for Koblerville gym

By JAYSON CAMACHO  
jayson\_camacho@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Northern Marianas Housing Corp. deputy director Jeannie Mafnas informed the NMHC board of directors yesterday that they are considering sub-recipients for the Koblerville gym if the Public School System does not respond to NMHC's calls as of yesterday.

According to Mafnas, the last day for Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan to respond was yesterday. Mafnas told board members that Sablan has not responded to Mafnas' emails since NMHC gave PSS

a 30-day extension from Nov. 26, 2014, to Dec. 26, 2014.

NMHC corporate director Jesse Palacios then issued another email to Sablan but he has also yet to get a response.

Mafnas told board members that she sent an email to Sablan yesterday and is still awaiting a response.

"I discussed with Palacios what our next plan of action is and I guess we may just ask and send out an official letter to her. Assuming that PSS doesn't want to be a part of the project anymore, then we'll have to identify a new sub-recipient immediately," Mafnas said.

She cited three possible sub-recipients, two of whom she has been in contact with and one of whom she has heard of through newspapers.

Two of the interested sub-recipients are the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs while the one she heard about through the newspapers is the Northern Marianas Sports Association.

It was earlier reported that DCCA is fully aware that it will shoulder all maintenance and operation costs if it takes responsibility for the gym. MISO

See NMHC on Page 4

## Mayor's office to get 2 new backhoes by end of January

By JAYSON CAMACHO  
jayson\_camacho@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Two new backhoes for the Saipan Mayor's Office are anticipated to arrive by the end of January, according to Saipan Mayor Marian Tudela.

Tudela said the two backhoes will be shipped from the port of Long Beach, California on Jan. 7 and the mayor's office is expecting their arrival on Jan. 30.

Tudela said a brand new dump truck will also be shipped from the same port on Jan. 30 and is expected to arrive in the CNMI in late February.

In an earlier letter, special adviser Henry S. Hofschneider told Tudela that the 2015 Ford F-750 four-wheel drive dump truck is estimated to arrive on

Feb. 20 to 25, while the two CASE 580SN four-wheel drive loader backhoes are expected to arrive on Jan. 15 to 20.

The Saipan Mayor's Office is responsible for paying the shipping cost from California to Saipan. This is estimated to cost \$10,800 to \$11,000.

"These three heavy equipment are very critical to the needs of our people. Without some heavy equipment we might rely on rentals and that is just too costly and we don't have enough funding for that," Tudela said.

"I just hope that the next Legislature works more closely with Mayor David Apatang in addressing these issues because it is very critical that we help the community when it needs us to clear some roads or other duties

requiring heavy equipment," Tudela said.

The purchase of these new equipment was made possible after the mayor's office got \$100,000 from the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation and \$413,000 from the Office of Insular Affairs.

## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to our Princess JoDean Desiree Leipfisch. May God bless you always and many more birthdays to come. We love you.

## NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING PROGRAM

Babies learn from the time they are born. One of the ways they learn is through hearing. When a baby is born with hearing loss, many sounds and voices are not heard, and the child's speech and language development can be delayed. CHCC implemented newborn hearing as a standard of care and all babies get their hearing screened shortly after birth.



Ask if your baby passed the test. If you have concerns or your baby needs follow up call 236-8709.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Printing funded by the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Grant under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Service Administration.





# Inos-Torres administration is primed to form new Cabinet

With less than a week before the inauguration of governor-elect Eloy S. Inos and lieutenant governor-elect Ralph DLG Torres, the slate is clean for the new administration to choose a new Cabinet.

Inos' acting public information officer, Ivan Blanco, said all Cabinet members are supposed to have submitted their courtesy resignations to allow the Inos and Torres a free hand to pick new or retain current department secretaries and heads of other government agencies.

"I can only assume all the Cabinet members submitted their courtesy resignation letters to the governor as is customary during a transition period," he said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

The makeup of the new Cabinet will be based on the transition report that will be submitted by Committee on Transition chair Gregorio M. Camacho.

The current Cabinet is composed of Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson, Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Laura Ogumoro, Labor Secretary, Edith DeLeon Guerrero, Land and Natural Resources Secretary Arnold I. Palacios, Public Works Secretary Martin Sablan, Public Lands Secretary Pete A. Tenorio, Public Safety Commissioner James DeLeon Guerrero, Corrections Commissioner Ramon Mafnas, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, Chief Public Defender Doug Hartig, special assistant for Management and Budget Virginia Villagomez, special assistant for Homeland Security



## 19TH SENATE ADJOURNS

MARK RABAGO

From left, Senate floor leader Pete P. Reyes (Ind-Saipan), Sen. Frank Borja (Ind-Tinian), Senate Vice President Victor Hocog (Ind-Rota), Sen. Jovita Taimano (R-Rota), Senate President Ralph DLG Torres (R-Saipan), Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota), Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), Sen. Joaquin Borja (Ind-Tinian), and Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) pose after the 19th Senate's sine die session Tuesday at the Senate chamber on Capital Hill.

and Emergency Management Marvin Seman, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality administrator Frank Rabauliman, special assistant for administration Esther Fleming, Carolinian Affairs Office director Jose Limes, Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority special assistant Thomas J. Camacho, Women's Affairs Office special assistant Remy Buniag, Commerce acting secretary Mark Rabauliman, and acting press secretary Ivan Blanco.

Inos requested his Cabinet

to submit courtesy resignations immediately after he and Torres won the runoff election in December.

Helping Committee on Transition chair Camacho complete the transition report is a Transition Executive Committee made up of James Ada as vice chairman and members Rufin S. Inos, Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero, Esther S. Fleming, Mathilda A. Rosario, representative-elect Angel A. Demapan, and Torres brothers Vince, Victorino, and Joaquin. *(Mark Rabago)*

## Man slapped with 9-month term for continued use of 'ice'

A man on federal probation who was warned of immediate detention by the federal court in 2013 for using methamphetamine or "ice" was slapped Tuesday with a nine-month prison term for continued use of "ice."

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona revoked Roque Sablan Norita's supervised release after he admitted his continued use of "ice" and failure to report for drug testing.

Manglona recommended to the Bureau of Prisons that Norita be placed in a facility that offers both psychological counseling and drug treatment programs.

Upon Norita's release from prison, he will be placed on 62 months of supervised release.

During the supervised release, he will be required to participate in a substance abuse treatment program, and prohibited from using controlled substance and possessing a firearm or other dangerous weapons. He is not allowed excessive use of alcohol and is prohibited from using poker machines or any form of gambling device.

Bruce Berline, the court-appointed counsel for Norita,

recommended a sentence of six months of home detention so he can continue his employment, or in the alternative a four-month imprisonment.

According to U.S. Probation Officer Gregory F. Arriola, Norita violated his probation by using "ice" on Nov. 16 and 19, 2014, and on Dec. 10, 2014.

Arriola said the defendant attempted to substitute his urine specimen during a random drug test on Dec. 4, 2014, failed to report for drug testing on Dec. 4, 2014, and failed to serve three months of home detention under the location monitoring program.

Arriola said Norita also failed to appear for drug testing on Dec. 18, 20, 28, 30, 2014 and Jan. 3, 2015.

The probation officer disclosed that before submitting to a drug test last Monday, Norita admitted in writing that he used "ice" last Sunday.

When asked why he was not reporting for drug testing, Norita replied that he was tired of submitting to drug tests.

In August 2013, Norita admitted to the allegations that he used "ice" again and apologized to the court, prosecution, and U.S. Probation Office.

## HUANG SHUN CORPORATION dba SUNSHINE GARDEN

P.O. BOX 503302 SAIPAN MP 96950, CNMI  
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# Holiday

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<b>Toyota Camry</b>	\$50/6hrs \$75/day	<b>\$40/6hrs \$60/day</b>

	Regular	PROMO
<b>F.J. Cruiser</b>	\$80/6hrs \$110/day	<b>\$64/6hrs \$88/day</b>
<b>Toyota Corolla</b>	\$35/6hrs \$50/day	<b>\$28/6hrs \$40/day</b>
<b>Chevrolet Van</b>	\$60/2hrs \$100/6hrs \$150/day	<b>\$48/2hrs \$80/6hrs \$120/day</b>

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## MEMBERS

From Page 1

Benigno R. Fitial.

He said that crisis, however, immediately proved to everyone that the House was a “working body.”

Teresita A. Santos (R-Saipan) said the 18th House was a “challenging journey but collectively we remained composed to continue our mandate to our people to overcome the problems that stood in our way.”

Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan) trumpeted the major accomplishments of the 18th House: the timely passage of budgets for 2014 and 2015, preventing austerity measures, averting the collapse of the NMI Retirement Fund, and, together with Inos administration, the establishment of a casino industry on Saipan.

Ogumoro also promised to reintroduce two controversial bills in the 19th House, which she was re-elected into. One calls for a constitutional convention to review the CNMI Constitution and the other seeks to establish a second political commission that will reassess the islands’ relationship with the United States.

Rep. Janet U. Maratita (Ind-

Saipan), who failed in her bid for a Senate seat, said she is confident that the 19th Legislature will serve the people well.

“It was a humbling and rewarding experience to be again part of the House of Representatives,” she said.

Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said he would cherish the sincere working relationship he was able to build with colleagues in the 18th House.

“Best wishes on your future endeavors and I pledge to work hand in hand with the incoming administration and the 19th Legislature.”

Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) had the shortest speech of the session, lasting all of 58 seconds where he thanked fellow lawmakers and House staff for making his experience in the 18th House pleasant and memorable.

The pros and cons of the profession were espoused by Rep. Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan) in his speech.

“I believe this job is a never-ending job. We appreciate what we face forward and yet we are challenged in whatever we need to do to make it better for our people,” he said.

Rep. Richard Seman (R-Saipan), who, like Maratita, will

not be returning to the House, recalled his promise when he first entered the 18th House in January 2013.

“At the very beginning when we were all here for the first time, I made a statement about making difference. We’re here to make a difference and not make a living. It’s always been my drive to serve here in the Legislature simply because all of us love our people. The CNMI is a special place for me. I always strive to do better for our island. What’s good for our island is good for our people,” he said, while wishing the returning members and freshmen representatives the best of luck in the 19th House.

Rep. Ramon Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) made a first when he thanked the media for covering the Legislature, adding that their reporting is part of the democratic process.

He also alluded to the fleeting time of lawmakers. “We’re temporary in this chamber and temporary in our lives.”

Another outgoing lawmaker, Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), appealed for members of the incoming House to look at legislation that didn’t pass muster in the 18th House by re-introducing them in the 19th.

“We have many good legislations introduced in this chamber and I ask you, the returning members along with the newly elected members, to consider those legislations and bring them back for consideration and hopefully pass them for the good of one and all,” he said, while also thanking House sergeant-at-arms Pedro O. Towai

Rep. John Paul Sablan’s (R-Saipan) message was short but sweet when he thanked Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) for his leadership as well as his colleagues for their hard work in the 18th House.

Rep. Antonio Sablan (Ind-Saipan) had the longest *sine die* speech at 11:04. One of his best points was when he said that the CNMI benefits best when the governor and the Legislature are cooperating.

“It’s so much easier to have an Executive [Branch] that takes the time to consult with the two houses of the Legislature. Having served both in the 17th and 18th Legislature, I can attest that there’s a big difference in what we can achieve if we manage to work together.”

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## KILILI

From Page 1

Marianas have chosen me to speak here for them.”

### Inos congratulates Kilili

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, who himself will be sworn in as governor on Monday, congratulated Sablan in a statement.

“While most of us slept early this morning, 441 men and women converged in our nation’s capital to solemnly take the oath to support and defend the Constitution and laws of our nation. One of those people was our very own delegate, Gregorio ‘Kilili’ Camacho Sablan. On behalf of the people of the Commonwealth, I extend my congratulations and best wishes to Kilili as he embarks on his fourth term as our distinguished gentleman. I, along with lieutenant governor-elect [Ralph DLG] Torres, look forward to working with you in addressing our islands’ most critical issues on-island and abroad.”

### Delegates’ voice denied anew

The U.S. House also adopted its rules and elected a speaker as part of the opening day session.

John Boehner (R-OH) was elected to continue to serve as Speaker in the 114th Congress, as he has in the preceding two Congresses.

A motion to refer the rules to a select committee, instructed to study and report on whether there is any reason to deny the representatives from the non-state areas of America, such as the Northern Mariana Islands, the right to vote in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union was tabled on a party line vote. The Committee of the Whole House is where most legislation is debated and amended.

Democrats first allowed the non-state area representatives to have the vote in 1992. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the decision. But when Republicans have controlled a majority in the House, they have always voted to rescind the Rule and take away the vote from the representatives

of American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia, home to over 4 million Americans.

Sablan said he is disappointed that delegates are again not allowed to vote in the Committee of the Whole.

“The vote in Committee of the Whole is largely symbolic,” Sablan observed, “because, if a non-state representative casts a deciding vote, then a second vote can be demanded without the non-state representatives voting. But symbols are important. In this case the vote in Committee of the Whole symbolizes that even those of us who do not live in a state are still Americans, citizens of this country. I cast many votes on major issues during my first term of office with a Democratic majority and I am disappointed not to have that be part of my duty as a member of Congress,” he said.

Sablan said the denial of delegates voting in Committee of the Whole makes people of the areas delegates represent appear less important.

“I believe that voting on the issues of importance to our country, makes the non-state representatives responsible to our constituents in a way we are not otherwise. Because our constituents can see the position their representative takes on the policies that guide our nation. And those policies generally have the same impact on the people we represent as those policies do on Americans anywhere in the United States.”

Today, Sablan said the House will also begin work on its legislative agenda, which in the first week will include a renewed effort to enact the Tsunami Warning, Education, and Research Act, of which Sablan is an original cosponsor. The bill passed the House in the 113th Congress, but was not acted upon by the Senate.

In an earlier interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Sablan his agenda in the 113th Congress would continue to focus on three important issues: education, immigration, and the regional military buildup.

## EPA

From Page 1

EPA, through U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Enforcement Section senior attorney Bradley R. O’Brien, stated that the accounting request is not an academic exercise but a reckoning that is necessary to reveal the extent of the funding that will be available to the Engineering and Environmental Management Company, which is necessary for EEMC’s future planning, and CUC’s attempt to shift funding responsibilities to the detriment of the EEMC and to the benefit of CUC.

“The United States is not accusing CUC of improprieties, but believes that a full financial accounting, firm financial and project commitments, plainly stated contract intentions, a description of ongoing CUC disputes, and public disclosure is imperative,” said O’Brien.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David O. Carter recently selected Gilbane Federal, a California-based full service construction company, as EEMC, which will have the power to expeditiously complete some stalled CUC projects.

O’Brien asserted that it is important that the court require CUC to fully inform the court and the parties of current and past project funding, available project funds, contracting issues, the extent to which funding will be earmarked or transferred to the EEMC, and CUC’s intentions regarding current and past contracts that CUC seeks to potentially transfer to the EEMC.

“It is time for a CUC account-

ing,” he pointed out.

O’Brien specifically asked the court to order CUC to provide information, under oath, for each of the Stipulated Order 2 projects.

SO2 refers to court-mandated CUC projects that include the CUC pipeline; tank erection cleanout and testing; secondary containment; and used oil disposal, and others.

O’Brien said in light of the federal funding implications and the insufficient information that has been previously provided, providing the information under oath is appropriate.

O’Brien requested for an accounting of all SO2 funding or potential funding (whether federal funding or CUC and CNMI funding) for each of the past, current, and future SO2 projects.

He requested for information regarding the extent to which funding is available for each of the past, current, and future SO2 projects.

To ensure complete and accurate grant funding information, he said it is important to clarify whether the grant funding is “obligated” or “unobligated” and the extent to which the funds have been spent, invoiced, not invoiced but spent, or expected to be spent.

O’Brien said much of the funding information was provided verbally by CUC to the U.S. government.

He disclosed that, on Dec. 10, 2014, CUC submitted the required grant status report for SO2 projects as of Nov. 30, 2014.

“The grant status report is not up to date and does not clearly delineate grant funding obliga-

tions and payments, thereby hampering EPA’s ability to discern available grant monies and funds obligated or earmarked to contracts or projects,” the counsel said.

On the Tank 102 project, O’Brien said their response describes CUC’s apparent intention to transfer the project construction to the EEMC at the EEMC’s sole expense—and to shift to CUC approximately \$1.5 million in combined grant and CUC funding currently earmarked for the project contracts.

“Notably, CUC’s reply is silent on this point, a silence that needs unambiguous clarification as requested by the United States,” he said.

On the CUC pipeline project, O’Brien said CUC must be required to fully account for the project’s funds and to state whether CUC intends to support the EEMC’s use of these funds.

He cited that CUC’s grant status report states that there remains only \$195,649 in unobligated grant funding for the project.

“However, CUC does not account for approximately \$1.682 million that EPA was informed was released from the Smithbridge of Guam contract—a total of \$1.877 million that should be available in unobligated grant funding,” O’Brien said.

He said CUC may have made a payment to Smithbridge to resolve the CUC/Smithbridge contract dispute.

“If so, CUC should specify the extent to which additional payments were made to Smithbridge and the extent to which grant funding was used for this payment and the funding now available for the CUC

pipeline,” he said.

O’Brien said that, on Oct. 23, 2013, the court ordered CUC to establish an \$866,000 CUC pipeline contingency fund. While the contingency fund may have been fully funded originally, EPA has been informed that CUC has withdrawn funds from this account, possibly for non-CUC pipeline activities, he said.

“A full accounting of these funds is needed, with a firm CUC commitment that all CUC pipeline funding will be available to the EEMC,” O’Brien said.

On miscellaneous grant funding, O’Brien said in addition to the \$1.17 million in grant funding currently obligated to the CUC pipeline and Tank 102, there is \$1.962 million in grant funding that is associated with SO2 projects but is either not obligated to specific contracts or obligated but not spent and can be used for SO2 projects.

CUC and EPA are in disagreement over EPA’s role over the implementation of identified CUC projects with the selection of the EEMC.

CUC, through counsel James S. Sirok, stated that under the provisions of the EEMC order, CUC believes that the EPA does not have the authority to micro-manage the SO2 projects and SO2 project management responsibilities of the EEMC.

Last September, Carter approved a settlement agreement entered by EPA, CUC, and the CNMI government that will require the CNMI government to, among other things, deposit over \$22.8 million until 2018 to complete some stalled CUC projects.

## NMHC

From Page 2

was also fully aware of that.

NMHC board member Ignacio Perez said that if PSS backs out, it is time to look at other sub-recipients.

Back in 2011, NMHC bought three lots equaling 60,000 square miles in Koblerville for \$1.17 million, using Community Development Block Grant funds, upon which the gym would be built.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development had told NMHC that the CNMI has to pay the money back, according to Mafnas.

NMHC board member Diego Songao told board members that the committee reviewing applications should do a thorough investigation so that it does not happen again.

One other board member is disappointed that PSS has gone to this extent of backing out from the project.

“We gave them a lot of leverage and we’ve supported all the needs, so the next time around we have to start giving more thought to those more interested in the program,” he said.

Songao urged the corporation to be more careful in reviewing applications so that NMHC would not be stuck in such a big hole.



## IN CHINESE TEACHER'S LAWSUIT VS CBP OFFICERS

## CBP officer seeks to compel teacher to reply, provide documents

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer Dennis Jacobs has asked the federal court to issue an order compelling a Chinese teacher, who is suing him and seven other unnamed CBP officers, to answer his interrogatories and produce documents that he requested in connection with the lawsuit.

Assistant U.S. attorney Mikel W. Schwab, counsel for Jacobs, asserted that Yu Min Zhao's failure to provide discovery responses, despite numerous time extensions and Jacobs' attempts to obtain responses, "is a willful disregard of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure."

Schwab said Jacobs' ability to defend this case is negatively impacted by Zhao's failure to provide discovery responses.

Discovery refers to a pre-trial stage in a lawsuit in which a party can obtain evidence from the opposing party through requests for answers to interrogatories, requests for production of documents, and requests for admissions and depositions.

First, Schwab said, Jacobs strategically served the depositions so that he would have the responses prior to his depositions of Zhao and her husband, Jian Li.

Deposition refers to the taking of testimony of a witness outside of court.

Further, the prosecutor said, the information sought in the

discovery requests is critical to Jacobs' defense as all of the evidence to date shows that Jacobs was not a supervisor and was not involved in any manner in Zhao's immigration inspections or detention.

"The discovery requests were, in large part, aimed to ascertain any information supporting plaintiff's allegations against Officer Jacobs and to obtain a copy of any evidence supporting these allegations," Schwab said.

Zhao is suing Jacobs and seven other unnamed CBP officers for allegedly denying her entry to Saipan on suspicion that she was pregnant. She claims that she was handcuffed, her face slammed against the wall, and placed in isolation for 22 hours.

Zhao, through counsel Samuel I. Mok, alleged that her husband, Jian Li, was questioned first on that same day by a CBP officer and was admitted under the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program without incident.

Zhao asked the court to stop the CBP officers and their agents and employees from violating her Fifth Amendment right to equal protection by prohibiting racial and gender discrimination from being practiced against non-citizen Chinese females of child-bearing age who are pregnant or suspected of being pregnant.

Mok stated in the complaint that Zhao, a school teacher in China, wanted to visit Saipan

with her husband, Li, as a tourist for one week of vacation.

According to Mok, the incident happened on Oct. 18, 2013, at 3:10am, soon after the couple arrived at the Saipan International Airport from Beijing via a China Eastern Airlines charter flight.

In Jacobs' motion to compel, Schwab said that, on Nov. 12 and 17, 2014, Jacobs served Zhao via email his first request for production of documents and first request for answers to interrogatories respectively.

After not receiving a response to assistant U.S. attorney Jessica F. Cruz's letter inquiring with Zhao's counsel on the status of the responses to the production request, Cruz followed up via

email on Dec. 18, 2014.

Schwab said that, on Dec. 18, 2014, Zhao's counsel informed Cruz via email and by phone that he and his interpreter would work with his client over the weekend on the discovery responses and would provide the responses on Dec. 22.

On Dec. 23, Cruz sent an email to Zhao's counsel requesting that the outstanding discovery responses be provided by Dec. 26.

On Dec. 29, Cruz sent an email to Zhao's counsel requesting that the discovery responses be provided the following day.

Schwab said that, on Dec. 29, Zhao's counsel responded that his interpreter "lost her smartphone over the holidays" and

that she was "trying to reconstruct her contact list which included [his] clients."

That same day, Zhao's counsel informed Cruz that he had learned of interpreter's lost phone only a few days prior and did not have contact information for his clients, Zhao and her husband, as he had given the information to his interpreter.

The counsel also informed Cruz that he would work with his interpreter to locate the client's contact information to discuss their upcoming depositions and the outstanding discovery responses.

Schwab said that, on Dec. 30, during a break at the deposition of Jacobs, Cruz inquired about the past-due dis-

covery responses, and Zhao's counsel informed Cruz that he was able to contact his clients through his interpreter but did not discuss the discovery responses with his client.

Cruz emphasized to Zhao's counsel the urgency for the discovery responses as they are necessary for Jacobs' summary judgment motion.

Cruz sent another letter to Zhao's counsel, again expressing the urgency of the responses and that time was of the essence for his confirmation of Zhao's and Li's attendance on the proposed deposition dates.

To date, the prosecutor said, Jacobs has not received responses to interrogatories or to request for production of documents.

## SCC monthly workshop on Jan. 20

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its monthly seminar on Tuesday, Jan. 20, from 9am to 12pm at the Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 315.

The three-hour workshop will concentrate on the rights and responsibilities of both employees and employers, and how to inform, prevent, and document the sensitive issues of EEO concerns and workplace sexual harassment.

Learn how to implement and apply legally defensible best practices in your organization. This half-day seminar helps you gain confidence and expertise in dealing with EEO law and employee issues. You'll gain a comprehensive overview of employee discrimination/EEO and sexual harassment laws.

## Who should attend?

HR managers, business owners, and supervisors/managers at all levels.

## What you will cover?

■ Major provisions...who is covered...the purpose of the EEO...types of discrimination...what does it not cover

■ Wrongful termination and at-will employment: definitions, contracts, public policy,

negotiated resignations, and discharge for cause

■ How to identify sexual harassment

## How you will benefit?

■ Avoid costly litigations  
■ Recruit, hire, discipline and terminate employees in a legal manner

■ Develop HR policies and procedures that comply with employment law and do not violate federal statutes

■ Know what constitutes "reasonable accommodations" and how to implement them without creating unique hardship

## Facilitators

■ Frank Gibson, HR Support, CNMI (Owner)

■ James Arenovski, Island Training Solutions (Owner)

Registration for the seminar is now being accepted at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office at the Marianas Business Plaza Suite 315, 3rd Floor. Please call 234-7150 or e-mail [coordinator@saipan-chamber.com](mailto:coordinator@saipan-chamber.com) to reserve your attendance. Registration fee for Chamber members is \$20; (\$30 for non-Chamber members). Seating is limited to the first 40 paid attendees. (SCC)

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# Hawaii senator, US Naval Hospital donate beds, items to CHC

By JAYSON CAMACHO  
jayson\_camacho@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Center received a generous donation of beds and hospital items this week from Hawaii state Sen. Glenn Wakai and the U.S Naval Hospital in Guam.

CHC received two hospital beds with mattresses, three newborn/infant warmers, one electric breast pump, and one infant radiant warmer from Wakai.

The U.S Naval Hospital donated two general hospital beds, one intensive care unit bed, four gurneys, three scales, one pediatric C-arm bedside X-ray, one birthing bed and an autoclave to sanitize medical equipment.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther Muna said the hospital is pleased with the generous donations from Wakai and the U.S Naval Hospital.

“We’re very grateful and fortunate that we’ve receive this donation and any support for our hospital is definitely very significant for us because basically we want people to understand that this is their hospital and this is not just ours. It belongs to the people,” Muna said.

She said the donations received from Wakai were made possible through KKMP’s Rosemond Santos who contacted Wakai. Wakai, who works with an organization called REPAC or Reach Out Pacific, included CHC among its beneficiaries this year.

“Santos was involved because she and Wakai worked together through contacting each other. He and Santos basically arranged for the shipment with REPAC. We we’re actually thinking that we were going



JAYSON CAMACHO  
Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. hospital administrator Jesse Tudela, CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muna, Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness Program director Warren Villagomez, and a medical supply staff pose at the hospital’s storeroom in Lower Base after receiving donations of hospital beds and hospital equipment from Sen. Glenn Wakai of Hawaii and the U.S Naval Hospital in Guam.

received the notice to proceed with its contract on receiving 30 beds, two ICU beds, two birthing beds, and 10 special mattresses.

According to Muna, the contract was certified by the Office of Procurement and Supply on Dec. 23 and they received the notice to proceed and get the hospital materials from its vendors yesterday.

Muna noted that CHC will continue to look for more funding on getting more hospital beds.

to get two beds and mattresses because that’s what he emailed, but there were extra mattresses that were given,” Muna said.

Muna said that the two hospital beds from Wakai are both electronic beds. They received the donations from Wakai on Tuesday and just unloaded the donations yesterday.

“We have a lot of the old equipment that really needs to be decommissioned so these donations are really helpful,” she said.

“When they are donating to the organization, they are donating to the people. On behalf of the people of the CNMI we are very grateful to KKMP, U.S. Naval Hospital, REPAC and Wakai,” she added.

In related news, CHC has

## Descendent brings Jesuit skull back to Guam

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—A descendant of a Spanish Jesuit missionary, who was killed on Guam in 1684, has traveled from Spain to Guam in the spirit of prayer, reconciliation and friendship.

Nearly 330 years after a Chamorro uprising killed Father Manuel de Solórzano, his descendant, Manuel López Casquete, brought the missionary’s skull and pages of original letters he wrote while on Guam to the island.

University of Guam anthropology Professor David Atienza, who has been conducting research about Solórzano, said

three machete cuts in the skull are visible, which are consistent with accounts of his death.

Other Jesuit missionaries, who were on Guam at the time of his death, sent Solórzano’s skull back to Spain.

Casquete, who arrived on Guam Sunday, returned to the island to retrace his ancestor’s footsteps. Academic researchers Andres Oyola Fabian and Jose Maria Oyola Perez, also from Spain, are accompanying Casquete on his trip.

“We came here not to recall wounds, but to heal them,” Casquete said. “I cannot feel hate, but in fact, the exact opposite.”

Hope Cristobal, who facilitated a press conference at the archdiocese’s Chancery office, said the skull’s arrival on Guam marks the first time in island history that a relic shows how Chamorro people fought back during the Spanish-Chamorro War, which began in 1671.

The only accounts of the war have been from Jesuit letters, Atienza said.

The skull will be on display at several events during the week, including: a round-table discussion at the Cathedral-Basilica, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, and a round table at UOG on Saturday, from 11 a.m. until


1 p.m. The public is invited to attend all events.

Bringing Casquete, Fabian and Perez to Guam has been in the works since August 2013, Atienza said.

The trip has already been an emotional one, Casquete said.


“(Returning to Guam with the skull) is a very important moment,” he said. “It was a very emotional moment when we were landing. We want to make part of a history bigger than us.”

Casquete, Fabian and Perez will be visiting Guam until Jan. 5, 2015, and when they leave, Solórzano’s skull will return to Spain with them.



### DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Caller Box 10007, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Office,  
Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan MP 96950  
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315



## NOTICE OF APPLICATION


January 08, 2015

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Marianas Trekking Corp	12/04/2014 SLRm-2014-X-061	Non Motorized Marine Sports	Managaha	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (12/18/2014)*
2. Songbird Aviation	12/04/2014 SSm-2014-X-063	Air Park	Marpi	Shoreline APC	Approved (12/30/2014)*
3. CUC	12/29/2014 SPIm-2014-X-064	Storage Facility	Puerto Rico	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (12/30/2014)*
4. Juan T. Lizama	12/29/2014 SPIm-2014-X-065	Grading & Excavation	Puerto Rico	Ports & Industrial APC	Under Review
5. Honest Profit Int'l Ltd.	12/31/2014 SMS-2014-X-066	Honest Profit Saipan Resort Hotel	San Antonio	Major Siting	Under Review


Require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (\*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.



### Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building  
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220  
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131



## PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (“CUC”) **Board of Directors’ Personnel Committee** hereby informs the general public that the **Personnel Committee** will meet on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at 1:30 p.m., at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building.

The Agenda is as follows:

- Consider final decision and action on:
  - Administrative Personnel  
Action No. 14-0005-CA
  - Administrative Personnel  
Action No. 14-0006-CA
- Adjournment.



# CSIS releases report on Asia-Pacific rebalance

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo issued the following statement Tuesday regarding a recent report by the Center for Strategic and International Studies, “Pivot 2.0: How the Administration and Congress Can Work Together to Sustain American Engagement in Asia to 2016.” The report highlights the importance of funding military construction projects in Guam and the Asia-Pacific region and adds to the progress that has been made to move the President’s broad Asia-Pacific rebalance strategy, and specifically the re-

alignment of Marines from Okinawa to Guam, forward. “I appreciate the findings contained in this CSIS report, which underscore the importance of the rebalance strategy and the need for Congress to continue to fund military construction projects in Guam and the Asia-Pacific region,” said

Bordallo. “This report builds on the progress that we made in the most recent defense authorization bill to support the rebalance strategy and get the Guam build-up back on track. I commend CSIS for their work to maintain bipartisan support for the rebalance and look forward to working with my colleagues to continue this support during the 114<sup>th</sup>

Congress. It’s important to continue to focus on the rebalance strategy and make sure that we are putting resources toward this important strategic endeavor. “I also appreciate CSIS’s findings regarding the impact sequestration has had on our military and the negative implications it will have if Congress does not prevent another

round of sequestration cuts next fiscal year. It is critical for Congress and the Administration to work together to prevent another round of sequestration and give our services the resources and guidance they need to carry out their mission.” The CSIS Report can be found online at: <http://csis.org/publication/pivot-20>. (PR)

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### CNMI GOP general membership meeting

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Republican Party president James Ada is calling for a GOP General Membership Meeting to be held this Saturday, Jan. 10, 2015, at 10am.

The purpose of this meeting will be to hold an election for the Republican National Committeewoman position that is currently not filled.

All Republicans are encouraged to attend the meeting, which will start promptly at 10am at the Minachom Atdao. Your presence is highly appreciated.

Nominations must be submitted to Ada (783-0470) by 5pm on Friday, Jan. 9, 2015. (GOP)

### Free workshop on applying for ANA grant

Applying for an Administration for Native Americans grant this year? Come to a free two-day workshop on Thursday and Friday, Jan. 15 and 16, at the NMC campuses. On Saipan, the work-

shop will be conducted in Room N-5, and on Rota and Tinian, it will be conducted at the VTC conference room. The workshop will start at 8:30am and will end at 4:30pm, with lunch break in between.

In this training session, participants will learn how to build a strong grant application, go over ANA’s grant scoring criteria, and review submission requirements.

You may register online at [www.anapacificbasin.org](http://www.anapacificbasin.org), or come as a walk-in on Jan. 15. For more information, you may call 484-4441. (PR)

### PTSA meeting at Oleai school

The PTSA officers of the Oleai Elementary School would like to inform parents and guardians of OES students that we will be having our PTSA meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2014, starting at 6pm in the school cafeteria. We encourage our parents and guardians to attend this important meeting. (PR)

### Workforce training courses offered at NMC Rota

Northern Marianas College is offering Workforce Training Courses on Rota beginning Monday, Jan. 12, 2015, through Friday, Jan. 16, 2015.

The courses include Introduction to Computers; Keyboarding; Fundamentals of the Internet and Email Usage; Introduction to Word Processing Applications; Introduction to Spreadsheet Applications; Creating Effective Digital Presentations; Workforce Ready: Personal and Professional Skills; Customer Service; Workplace Culture and Ethics; Communication in the Workplace; Time and Stress Management; and Getting the Job: Job Search/Resume Writing/Job Interviewing Techniques.

To register for these classes, call the NMC Rota Campus at 532-9513, NMC Saipan 237-6764, or email [barnaby.lizama@marianas.edu](mailto:barnaby.lizama@marianas.edu) or [wdp@marianas.edu](mailto:wdp@marianas.edu). (NMC)

# Diabetes coalition sets membership meeting



The Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition is scheduling their general membership meeting on Friday, Jan. 9, 2015, at the Office on Aging conference room from 10am to 11:30am. All CDC members as well as interested individuals, organizations, partner agencies from government and non-government, and faith-based organizations are invited to attend this meeting and advocate for diabetes.

The CNMI faces continuing economic challenges and diabetes is a growing epidemic and one that is preventable through proper food choices, consistent exercise and moderate positive lifestyle changes. As advocates, members of our community, and concerned citizens of our beautiful islands it is imperative that we all combat this epidemic.

Let us all join efforts in increasing our community’s

awareness of the serious impact of diabetes and other non-communicable diseases on our families; our social structure; our economy; and our people. Call our Ayuda Network, Inc. office at 234-7469 and join us this Friday and be a part of our CDC team.

For more information about the CDC meeting, please contact Ayuda Network, Inc. at 234-7469 or email [ayudanet1@ayuda-cnmi.org](mailto:ayudanet1@ayuda-cnmi.org). (PR)



# Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**JVA No. 15-001**

**Opening Date : Tuesday, January 06, 2015**  
**Closing Date : Thursday, January 08, 2015**

### Trades Technician (Mechanic)

**DUTIES:** Under the general supervision of the Deputy Director for Power or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, maintenance and/or repairs in the service area assigned. Install new plant and equipment. Operate and maintain plant and equipment. Performs preventative maintenance in service area assigned. Maintains level of supplies and equipment. Performs control room operations and load dispatch. Monitor and balance generator and feeder loads.. Start up and synchronize generator sets. Monitoring lubrication oil and fuel consumption. Check and monitor engine oil and cooling water temperatures and pressures. Check and monitor bearing , exhaust gas and charge air temperatures. Record readings and report generator and feeder trips to plant management. Prepare switching programs and coordinate distribution line switching for plant and field staff. Monitoring loads on feeders and generators. Incinerating used oil and carry out SPCC plan routine work. Perform preventive maintenance and overhauls on plant and equipment. Troubleshoot and rectify faults on plant and equipment. Test and calibrate equipment. Condition monitoring and routine testing of generators, transformers and motors. Perform housekeeping duties. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

**LOCATION :** Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.  
(If needed, there may periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)

**SALARY :** \$20,826 to \$28,115 per annum.



**POSITIONS :** One (1)

**CONTRACT :** Not Contracted.

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:** High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education. Must demonstrate having had (A) 4 years of increasingly responsible experience in a diesel engine power plant and (B) those 4 years of increasingly responsible experience are to be performing mechanical duties. Knowledge of: Principles and procedures of service area assigned; Inspection and troubleshooting principles; Preventative maintenance principles; Inventory control principles; Basic mathematics. Skill in: Preparing cost and materials estimates; Performing preventative maintenance; Performing journey level maintenance and installations in assigned service area; Performing site inspections and recognizing problem areas; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

**CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER**



## COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

### COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

**January 08, 2015**

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Office of the Governor  
Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 237-2200 or (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

#### REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after January 30, 2015, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Honolulu Field Office, for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-383), as amended, to undertake the following projects and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Oleai Sports Complex Track and Field Renovation	To rehabilitate the rubberized surface of the track and field facility and to extend the perimeter fence from 4 ft. to 8 ft. in height.	Oleai, Saipan	\$772,368.80

#### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Central Office in Garapan, Saipan and may be examined or copied during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI or Austerity Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the projects may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 or direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan. All comments received by January 30, 2015, will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

#### RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD Honolulu Field Office that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Eloy S. Inos consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD Honolulu Field Office acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

#### OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD Honolulu Field Office will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of fifteen days following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Honolulu Field Office, 1132 Bishop Street, Suite 1400, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS  
Governor



# Bordallo sworn in to seventh term in Congress

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Madeleine Z. Bordallo joined her colleagues in the Hall of the House yesterday to take the oath of office at the start of the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress. The 114<sup>th</sup> Congress is Bordallo's seventh term as

the Guam delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, a position she has held since January of 2003. She also reintroduced H.R. 44, the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act.

Bordallo also hosted a lun-

cheon and swearing-in ceremony for new officers of the Guam Society of America, the oldest community organization of families from Guam in the United States. The GSA is comprised of residents from the

Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, including areas of Northern Virginia and Maryland.

"I am honored by the trust the people of Guam continue to place in me to represent them in the U.S. Congress," said Bor-

dallo. "I have worked hard over the past several terms to address issues important to Guam and our community, and I am looking forward to building on the progress that we have made on many of these issues during the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress—especially focusing on issues that will create jobs, such as continuing progress on the military buildup, extending visa-free travel for Chinese visitors to come to Guam, and addressing Compact impact. I will also work to improve services to veterans and seniors, enhance educational opportunities for our children and providing recognition to Guam's greatest generation who endured the enemy occupation during World War II. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress to

ensure that we continue to work for the people of Guam and raise the issues important to our community in Congress."

"I also congratulate the new officers of the Guam Society of America: president Peter Camit, vice president Charlotte Harris, treasurer Aylene Mafnas, and secretary Sara Santiago. I commend the outgoing officers for their hard work and dedication to the GSA during the past year. The GSA provides an important outlet for families from Guam residing in the DC area to come together as a community. I look forward to continue working with them to promote our island's culture and traditions in Washington." (*Office of the Delegate*)



Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo is joined by the newly installed officers and members of the Guam Society of America and their families during a swearing in ceremony in Washington, D.C.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## UOG Master of Public Administration Program becomes NASPAA member

The University of Guam School of Business and Public Administration proudly announces that the Master of Public Administration Program is now a member of the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration. NASPAA is considered the global standard in public service education.

"This is an exciting time for our MPA program. The program has done much in the last year and I

am confident that the community can expect great things in the near future," said Dr. Annette Taijeron Santos, interim dean of SBPA.

Program chair Dr. John J. Rivera says that membership is the first step in an effort toward acquiring NASPAA accreditation. "As the times change, the MPA program must continue to meet the demands of excellence required of higher education," Rivera said.

NASPAA is the recognized global accreditor of graduate education programs in public policy, public affairs, public administration, and public & nonprofit management. NASPAA has nearly 300 members schools located across the U.S. and in 14 countries around the globe. NASPAA's twofold mission is to ensure excellence in education and training for public service and to promote the

ideal of public service.

Rivera says that there is no better time than now to be a part of the UOG MPA program. He added, "I encourage interested candidates to explore graduate school at the University of Guam right here at home."

For more information on the UOG Master of Public Administration program, contact Dr. Rivera at [jrivera@uguam.uog.edu](mailto:jrivera@uguam.uog.edu). (*UOG*)

## 4 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged four Saipan beaches and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Affected sites are Tanapag Meeting Hall, DPW Channel Bridge, American Memorial Park, and the Hafadai Beach Hotel.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (*DEQ*)

## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy birthday to Janelle Santiago! Wishing you good health, happiness and success. Cheers to you, sexy mama! Greetings come from your family and friends!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Birthday greetings going out to Nicolette Nadine Ngirausui who is celebrating her birthday today. Wishing the best on your very special day and lots of love from your family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 8, 2010

### Construction firm says Labor forcing it to hire residents

A construction company has complained that it is being singled out by the Department of Labor and forced to hire citizens or permanent residents where none are available or qualified for offered positions. Misamis Construction (Saipan) Ltd. said that Labor's hold on its Job Vacancy Announcements has caused a log-jam of about 50 to 100 applications that remain pending in the Labor Processing Section. But Labor's Employment Services contends that Misamis is not acting in good faith, citing the

company's inability to fill positions with citizens as "proof" of bad faith conduct.

### Road widening affects SVES arrival, pickup policy

The San Vicente Elementary School will be changing its arrival and pickup policy effective Monday, Jan. 11, 2010, to ensure the safety of its students. In a notice issued to parents yesterday, acting principal Joaquina Dlg. Salas and acting vice principal Betty Miller said that construction to widen the road in front of San Vicente School will result in a new four-lane highway that will extend right up to the school gate. "This means the drop off and pick up

area at the basketball court and in front of the school will be eliminated. Therefore, parents will not be able to safely park in front of the school, or across the road, and escort their child on campus," they said in the notice.

January 8, 2008

### DCCA secures \$300K for gym improvements

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, in coordination with the Office of the Governor and Lt. Governor, was able to secure roughly \$300,000 for the improvements to the existing track and field at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. DCCA acting secretary Melvin L. Faisao, said they were able to secure the funding from the Housing Urban Development through the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. "This HUD grant funding will be mostly utilized in defrayment expense on the construction of a new

grand stand, other amenities, and conditions as provided or required," Faisao said.

### Terminated Tinian worker sues ex-employer

A Tinian resident who was acquitted on charges of sexually assaulting a co-employee has filed a lawsuit against his former employer for terminating him. Ryanjay T. Dela Cruz sued Rome Research Corp. for breach of contract and negligent infliction of emotional distress. Dela Cruz, through counsel Joey P. San Nicolas, asked the Superior Court to order Rome Research to pay him damages, interest, attorney's fees, and court costs. San Nicolas stated in the complaint that Rome Research hired the plaintiff as a technician on June 29, 2004. On Aug. 30, 2005, police arrested Dela Cruz for allegedly sexually assaulting a fellow technician. San Nicolas said the jury

subsequently found his client not guilty of the allegations.

January 8, 2002

### MHS to donate to Child Visitation Center

Marianas High School students will present a cash donation today to the Family Violence Task Force to help the agency's fund-raising program that seeks to establish a child visitation center. Domestic Violence Task Force Program Coordinator Laura T. Flores will meet with MHS Counselor Karen Borja and officials of the MHS Student Council at 11am today. The check presentation will be held at the MHS counseling office. Flores said the students raised \$300 during the Christmas holiday. The money will be donated to the task force in aid of its child visitation center program. Earlier, the Bank of Hawaii also handed out \$1,000 cash donation to the task force. The

Family Violence Task Force and the Ayuda Network, Inc., have partnered to raise funds for the establishment of a child visitation center.

### Waves eating up Managaha

The tourist-famous Managaha Island is suffering from significant erosion that has eaten up as much as 130 feet of its northeastern shoreline when compared to several years ago. This was disclosed by coastal coordinator Benny Pangelinan of the Coastal Resources Management Office, citing a study conducted by the US Army Corps of Engineers. "If you go down to Managaha, you will see that some of its coastal areas have become bare, and they're down to the bone, which means the rocks are already exposed," Pangelinan said. He said a pavilion that was previously erected near the shoreline has been destroyed by this erosion.



# Century Tours dismissed from lawsuit over 2012 plane crash

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona on Tuesday dismissed Century Tours Inc. from a lawsuit filed by survivors of a Star Marianas aircraft that crashed at the Francisco C. Ada International Airport in 2012, leaving one passenger dead and the pilot and five other passengers injured.

Manglona dismissed without prejudice the negligence claim

against Century Tours after the plaintiffs and Century Tours agreed to the dismissal.

Manglona said Century Tours' pending motion to dismiss is denied as moot.

Dismissed without prejudice means the plaintiffs can re-file the claim in the future.

In their stipulation for dismissal, Century Tours, through counsel Steven P. Pixley, and plaintiffs' counsel John K. Courtney and Mark B. Hanson disclosed that Pixley informed

plaintiffs that the company had absolutely no relationship with the passengers during the crash.

Pixley told Hanson and Courtney that Century Tours did not book any of the plaintiffs on the Star Marianas flight that crashed at the airport on Nov. 19, 2012.

The parties agreed that if discovery shows potential liability of Century Tours, the company waive any defense based on the statute of limitations.

The plaintiffs are Xiaojie Ge, Weilian Lu, Yixia Ge, Xin

Hong, Meilin Zhou, Xiaohua Zhou, and Xiuzhong Zhu, all Chinese citizens.

Xiaojie Ge is also representing his wife, Lu, who was killed in the crash.

The plaintiffs are suing the pilot, Jae Choi, Star Marianas Air Inc., Marianas Air Travel, Tinian Transportation Management Solutions Inc., Tianing Travel Agency, Top Development Inc., and 100 unnamed co-defendants, for negligence, wrongful death, and negligent

infliction of emotional distress.

In addition, they are suing Star Marianas for fraud.

They plaintiffs are suing for unspecified damages, compensation, attorneys' fees and court costs.

Hanson stated in the complaint that the plane—a 7-passenger Piper PA-32 Cherokee Six operated by Star Marianas Air, chartered by Marianas Air Travel, and maintained by Tinian Transportation Management Solutions—was departing the

Saipan airport on its way to Tinian to shuttle the six passengers to the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino as part of a package put together by Tianing and Top Development.

Hanson said while taking off, the plane lost power and nose-dived into the trees adjoining the north side of the runway, where a fire ensued.

He said the crash and subsequent fire injured pilot Choi and five of the passengers, while Lu was killed.

## Tanapag school Marine Biology Club cleans up

The Marine Biology Club of Tanapag Middle School took time out last month to help clean the environment by participating in the Marianas Visitors Authority's Beautify My Marianas campaign.

Twelve members of the club met at Aqua Resort Club lobby on Dec. 13, 2014, and proceeded to collect trash along a 1-mile beach strip.

"Aqua [Resort] beach wasn't that dirty, since it's a resort," said participant Maria Agustin. "The trees gave us a good cooling shade. The scenery was beautiful with clear, crystal blue waters, even the houses near the

shore were stunning."

But the effort was not entirely pleasant.

"Along the way we came to a place that had piles of beer cans that still contained beer," said Agustin. "The stench was revolting and disgusting."

The group ended up filling at least seven trash bags. Cleanup participants were: Agustin, Maria Cruz, Joanne Ragasa, Sami Nimura, Jose Anon, Fiona Rathburn, Andrew Camacho, Enrico Morales Jr., Jovina Pua, Darlyn Maca, Hannah Palacios, and De Faustina Camacho. They were chaperoned by Andrea



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Tanapag Middle School Marine Biology Club collected trash along the beach in San Roque on Dec. 13, 2014, as part of the "Beautify My Marianas" program administered by the Marianas Visitors Authority and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Camacho, Enrico Morales, and Terra Allen.

The "Beautify My Marianas" program offers \$100 for each 1-mile cleanup in assigned areas. For more information or an application for "Beautify My Marianas" visit the MVA homepage at [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com). (MVA)



## UOG's WERI recognized for outstanding achievements

A recent evaluation from the U.S. Geological Survey names the University of Guam Water and Environmental Research Institute among the top water research institutes in the nation.

The evaluation covered 54 similar water research institutes and centers across the nation over the period of 2008 and 2010.

USGS, which provides grant funding for WERI, praised the institute for its "significant research accomplishments" and its "impacts on public policy and water management throughout the region."

"I believe the success of our

institute is due to our strong research, our community outreach, our students who train under very committed faculty, and university support" said Dr. Shahram Khosrowpanah, director of WERI.

USGS also commended WERI for its work in Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia while remaining committed to focusing on the water problems of Guam, FSM, and CNMI. This is very important given that the water problems differ significantly between the areas.

"The tropical climate in the islands has a huge impact on water resources, and these varied island environments give researchers diverse project opportunities," Khosrowpanah added.

WERI provides scientific advice to the public and private sectors. WERI's recent accomplishments include: an aquifer geology map for use in the exploration and management of Guam's groundwater; and a comprehensive archive of Guam's hydrological data.

For more information about WERI, visit [www.weriguam.org](http://www.weriguam.org). (UOG)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. Joseph Rouse, WERI faculty member, demonstrates water testing at a community outreach event.



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR  
jayvee\_vallejera@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

### What new Republican Congress can learn from Bill Clinton

**I**t is premature, if not naive, to say that the new Congress, which started Tuesday, heralds a new era of bipartisanship. Better for U.S. Republicans, with a firmer hold on the House and an eight-seat majority in the U.S. Senate, to focus on a more modest goal: being less scary.

That's not meant as an insult—the advice comes from no less than Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who says his party's job is to show voters that if they elect a Republican president in 2016, it wouldn't be “a scary outcome. I want the American people to be comfortable with the fact that the Republican House and Senate is a responsible, right-of-center, governing majority,” he says.

Republicans might adopt a few basic criteria for fulfilling the promise of those three adjectives. They could begin by presenting legislation that is both ideologically mainstream and broadly backed by members of their own party.

A bill to expedite the Keystone XL pipeline to transport oil from Canada to Louisiana, for example, is an ideal starter. Republicans support it, as do many Democrats. And if President Barack Obama were to veto the legislation, the onus would be on him to explain why. Trade deals in the Pacific and elsewhere are significantly more complicated, but the White House is supportive and the necessary legislative coalitions appear within reach.

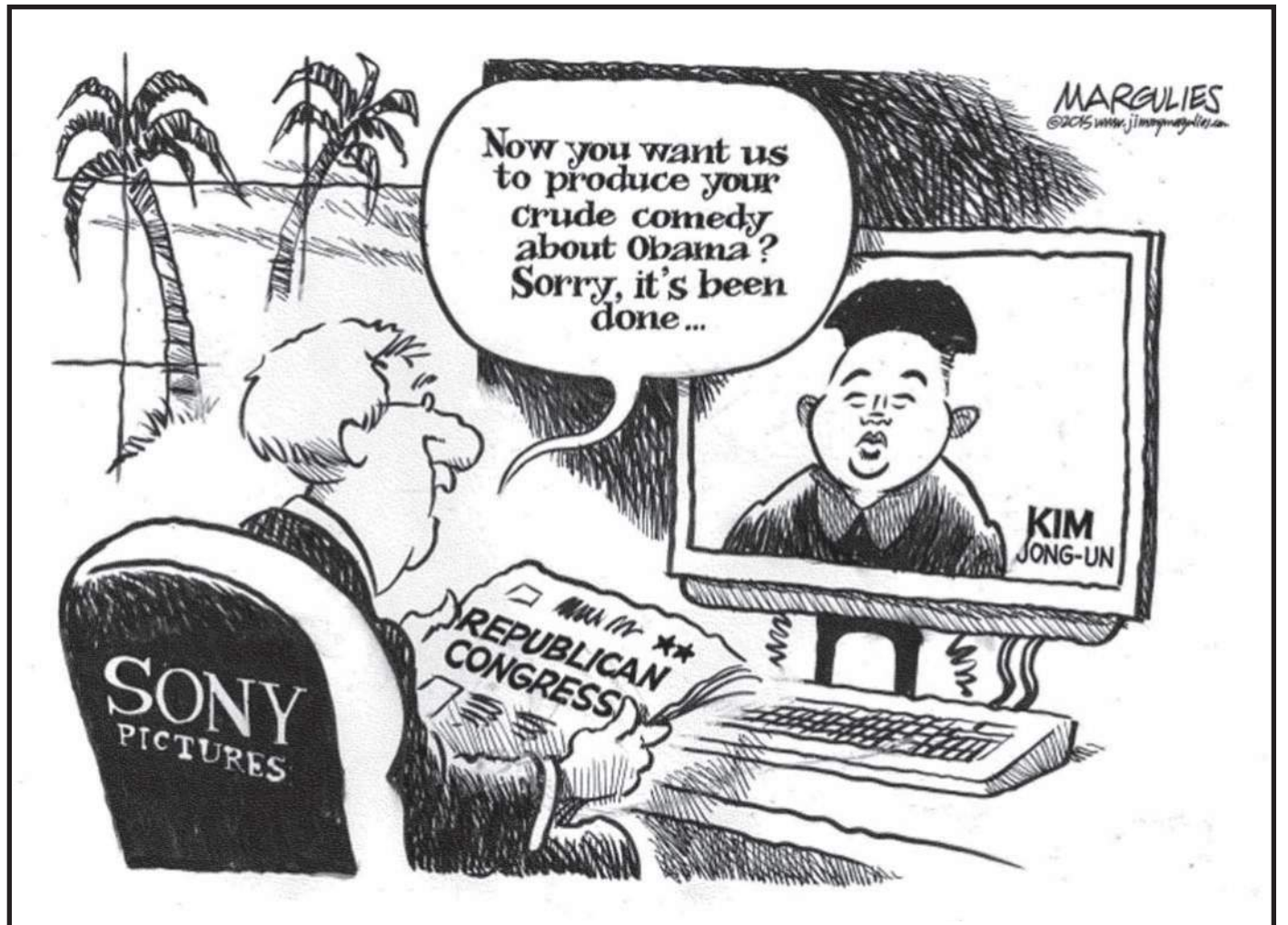
The harder test of Republican governance will come by the end of next month, when Congress must provide funding for the Department of Homeland Security. In last month's lame-duck session, Congress slashed the department's budget as a way to register conservative ire at Obama's executive actions on immigration.

It's unclear, to put it mildly, how withholding money for homeland security fits the party's “responsible” rubric. It's equally unclear how Republican extremists will stomach a likely capitulation to that reality. In any case, the train of contentious issues—Medicare doctor reimbursements, tougher Iran sanctions, raising the debt ceiling—won't stop.

To stay on track, Republican leaders will have to devise a congressional version of “triangulation,” the tactic that President Bill Clinton deployed two decades ago to hold the center ground between Republicans and his liberal base. The right wing of the Republican Party is far more powerful and potentially destructive than anything Clinton faced in his ranks. For the Republican leadership, that only makes triangulation more necessary.

To be responsible—and responsive to the vast middle of America—House Speaker John Boehner and McConnell will need to somehow placate or marginalize their party's most avid and outlandish partisans. If the speaker and majority leader can notch a few smart legislative wins in the next few weeks, perhaps they can use the resulting momentum to hold their party in line—and offer the model of conservative governance that their members and constituents deserve.

(c) Bloomberg News

See **REPUBLICAN** on Next Page

### A nation of immigrants

**J**FK wrote an article with our title but this is not about the book posthumously published after his assassination. It is about the nation we call the U.S. of A and how its story stands in contrast to its immigration history.

The peopling of the New World by Europeans was a muzzling of native folks. Migration was not the issue naturalization was, dealt with through residency rules in 1795, 1798, and 1802. In 1868, we protected the citizenship of sovereign born children, interpreted in 1898 as applicable “regardless of parents’ citizenship” though it favored European roots. We allowed Afro-Americans to be naturalized in 1872 defied by Jim Crow.

The 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act confirmed the “Yellow Peril” xenophobia changing the focus from U.S. naturalization to immigration; we barred additional Chinese to cast their shadows on U.S. soil. The Act was repealed only in 1943. Literacy was added in the 1917 qualifications.

In 1923, Indo-Aryans were declassified as whites; we limited in 1924 eastern European and southern Mediterranean immigrants (read, Jewish and Italian), and the quota system was introduced. Distinction by race was eliminated in 1952 but implementation favored Brits, Irish, Slav and German. 1965 abolished the quota system of national origin and ushered family preferences resulting in “chain immigration” where kin sponsored kin. Pinoys led the horde.

In 1970, married to a U.S. citizen, I traveled from the East Coast to Manila on a student visa. I returned through Seattle and was subjected to a thorough body check that took longer to peer through nooks and crannies than usual. I was told to secure a green card.

I was in Brownsville, Texas in 1978 and invited colleagues to lunch in Mexico. Already a seven-year green card holder, it took me four hours to cross back. A three-piece-suited Pinoy going through Matamoros was a known *modus operandi* of illegal crossing.

I entered Honolulu with a green card in 1982; was held back while my white wife and daughters waited hours outside. For a Pilipino to not apply for citizenship more than a decade after he had a green card was suspect. I naturalized in 1984.

A revamp of the whole immigration system in the 90s was intended to be credible policy measured by people who needed to get in to get in, people who were not needed kept out, and people who were judged deportable banished. 1996 enacted harsh policies.

Sept. 11, 2001, shocked the system and began a curb on immigration. It is in this context that BHO's executive order to delay deportation of illegals, particularly from NAFTA south, must be understood. He is stemming a climate of fearful frenzy and injects rationality on a system that awaits a thorough overhaul.

Yes, we are a nation of immigrants, though more of a melt-

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.*



ing pot with a creamy white top than a mosaic of diverse cultures. When we sent BHO to the White House, coloration of being stuck its ugly head. Historically, immigration was not that friendly to begin with, deselecting non-Europeans from crossing over. In our time, it does not bode well to be of color. The racial card is on the table again.

November Turkey Day was a Puritan celebration of the migration to the New World. I commented on a collegial listserv that Garth Barth nixed his TV appearance in light of the riots in Ferguson MO. A Caucasian friend responded: “I’m sorry to disagree, but this kid was bad news and brought about his own demise.” Rather blunt but truthful of her kneejerk response.

I have had five Michael Browns lean their bulk to my face, two of them Afro-Americans. I might have been pissed off as a consequence but their action was their choice and to respond in kind would have made their action mine, too. I need no defense of power status, unlike Ferguson's Darren Wilson who might have considered his official badge dishonored by a disrespectful teen and decided to use his firearm.

I bid America adieu this summer after almost 50 years of dipping my toes on its Gulf, Atlantic, great Lakes and Pacific shores. I was glad to see BHO and Raul Castro open diplomatic relations across the Gulf. On the other hand, NYC's finest are insolent re the Mayor and Police Commissioner at a Latino and Oriental colleague's funeral, not baffling of mostly whitey in uniform, my East Coast classmate claims!

I once took three hours to get out of London's Heathrow for fish and chips at Piccadilly on a half-day transit while heading to Africa from Chicago. That year debated whether maid in the Philippines qualified *Filipina* = nanny in OED. The same Pinoy passport that made English immigration's pause got automatic 45-days in Hispanic America, so Ravel's *Bolero* con SMU Texas Latinos was more memorable than Gringos no touch line dancing that had us tolerated rather than engaged.

I travel with the American blue book across borders. Now resident of Hawaii where folks are born beautifully brown, I see a handsome person of color in the mirror, proud in a nation of colorful immigrants.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Gi Sakan 2014

**G**i hiniyuñg 2014, guaha `nos kuantos asuntu umestotba katma na hinasoghu. `Nos kuantos attikulu este tat kumu i sigiente:

Ninañgan finatai gi man-malañgu ni man-tinatme chetnot Ebola.

Famaguon ni mañgakate pot man-ñalañg lau taya` neñkanu gi halom sadog miserapble na pinepble.

I familia ni man-malagu ginen gima` niha pot no u fan dinanche balan enemigu.

Trenta mit tantos na famaguon gi sanlichen na patte gi papa` iya America ni pumokate mit pot mit miyas gi halom piligrosu na disettu pot para u fan mattu guatu giya America.

Makat na pinadese gi katkuet grupu. Diberas esta hana` fan a`agotde tilipashu `an hu konsidera i kondision `nai mangaige deste ti amtiyon na chenot, ñalañg yan hinanau sustu.

Adahe para u bobogbug i famaguon chaguan gi disettu pot para fan gai alimientu pot esta un` semana mañalañg yan ma`hu. Diberas mandichosun tautau hit ya mauleg tafan mana`e mit gracias na ti hita pumadedese este siha na mattiru.

### Maliñgun Kuttura

Fuera de nobenan familia, maliñgu lokue` hagas kustumbren fandañgu guine. Tihu tuñgu` kau sisige ha` i pueñgen komplimentu. Ilegu na maribaha este gi hilu` inatuñgu` familia.

Gigon masera inatuñgu` dos familia, matutuhon ma`agañg plannun umakamu` gima` Yuus. Gi ha`anen kasamientu man-akone` deste gima` Yuus guatu gi hotel para i fina` sena. Magpu` todgi oran `las dies.

Magahet na mauleg burukaña fandañgu antes. Deste mamaisen saina, komplimentu, areglon fandañgu kau un` guma` pat dos lugat (amotsa yan sena) mana` tachun` fandañgeru, mapunu` ga`ga`, peska, muñgayu, tautau hotnu yan kusina, yan sentada diariu para i

man-mattu yan ayudon kanai `sino materiat. Estague` `nai kontodu i mento` bulachu haf` masusesede yan lokue` muna` fandañgu—todu bali gi uttimu sakudida siha.

Hu chage man-ayuda deste muñgayu`, kusina, mamunu` ga`ga`, hotnu yan fandañgeru. Mauleg na tiru para i man-listu yan fuetsudu. `An para un` fama` prisipe kasse maulegña hau giya hamyu. Ni unu u layu`. Diberas na manadan cho`chu`. Estague` lokue` `nai todgi man-managanu` piot i famalao`an: chule` ayu mage, fágasse i saten, suhun pat chagua i guafe, kamyu i niyog; etsis i mendioka, yan otu siha tinagu`. Dios mihu! Pa`gu, rikohe i tropa para i hotel.

### Mamaisen Saina

I patgon lahe magachuñge ni mañaiña mamaisen saina para u akamu`. `An ma-aksepta pues kanaha` felis todgi haf` siha na areglamientu para u fan masera yan chogue.

Pa`gu `an maplasu i lahe, pues kumeke ilegña na makana` finaiseña pot sais esta un` añu na tiempu estake fitme inañgokun mañainan i palao`an gi futturon hagan niha. Buente ni guma` taya` `sino tai offisiu i lahe. Aseguridat i gaige gi hinasson niha. Siempre unna` liheñg gi mauleg na guma` yan unna` cho`chu` dispues de un` kone` ginen i mañaiña.

Kulan lokue` hu tiatye man-amkoña ke guahu mañan niha `an ma-intended un` palao`an. Fuera de direktamiente ha fana` i palao`an, gaige lokue` intensioña gi kanta ni ha ususune kumanta gi fihon i palao`an. Bonitu na modun mensahe. I palao`an la`mon haf` para u disidi lau oppan haf` intensio i uma`ande`.

### Mamaisen Nobia

Hagas lokue` hu tatiye man-amkoña ke guahu mañan niha `an ma-intended un` palao`an. Fuera de direktamiente ha fana` i palao`an, gaige lokue` intensioña gi kanta ni ha ususune kumanta gi fihon i palao`an. Bonitu na modun mensahe. I palao`an la`mon haf` para u disidi lau oppan haf` intensio i uma`ande`.

## Our unrealistic expectations of public figures

**A** few years ago, Charles Barkley got into a lot of trouble for making the audacious observation that sports figures didn't need to be role models. Legions of fans and professional journalists (who are simply glorified fans with a byline) were outraged at this attack on the fundamental principle that the person who jumps highest must aim highest, the person who tackles the running back must also be able to tackle life's problems with grace, the person who hits it out of the park must swing for the cheap seats in real life as well.

The problem is not that we look to these people for perfection when they take off their uniforms. It's that we expect anyone to be our proxies for perfection, as if hitching our ordinary wagons to these extraordinary stars will pull us up with them, to heady heights.

That's stupid, and it's nonsense, and it makes the rest of us down here at the base of the pedestal lazy.

I get the importance of having heroes, the people who inspire us to cultivate the best potential within us and nurture our better angels. I personally have many heroes, from my mother, Lucy, to my favorite law professor, Howard, to the priest who counseled my father while he was dying to Lynne Abraham. Each of them has presented me with a reason to stand back, quietly, in awe.

But these are personal contacts, people who have actually touched my hand and my heart, and who occupy a pedestal built of my own experiences and aspirations. To look at an athlete or actress who may or may not be pulling down an exorbitant salary and demand that he or she match the contours of our dreams is not only a waste of time, it's dangerous. The danger comes in how this type of hero worship dehumanizes both the object of affection and the person who blindly adores. That was Barkley's point, not that we should give public figures a pass for being flawed but that we shouldn't

abandon our own moral compasses and look to them for true north.

The flip side of hero worship is the anger that comes from dashed expectations. When the people we've anointed to carry our standards in sports, in the arts, in science, politics, music, the law and all the other fields where excellence is appreciated fall short of the mark, we turn on them with a passion. We do this out of a misplaced sense of betrayal, as if their failures somehow reflect poorly on us. It's the exact opposite of what we've been taught to treasure as Americans: individuality. And when we feel betrayed, we push back.

Recently on a television program I participated in, the discussion turned to Kathleen Kane. Someone suggested that the fact that the first female attorney general in Pennsylvania was really mucking things up could have unfortunate repercussions for women seeking elected office. After digesting that twisted logic (which all but commanded we in the sisterhood politely ignore her absolute and abject failure), I offered the opinion that Kane was being justifiably criticized and that it was gross incompetence, not misogyny at the root of the attacks. After the show aired, I had people emailing to tell me that I was either (1) a traitor to the ovaries for publicly attacking a fellow female when we needed to stand together behind this "role model," or (2) an idiot for not going a step further to say that this incompetent lawyer had made it harder for all women to move to the next level.

How depressing. Why should the inferior performance of one woman elicit such divergent but passionate views in people? The answer is obvious: Kane has stopped being an attorney general but has instead become The First Female Attorney General, complete with Wonder Woman bracelets and administrative bustier. She can't just make a mistake and pay the normal consequences. She

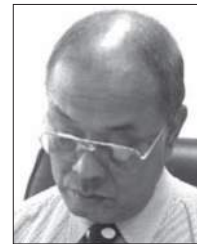
Turkey's response is one of the few bright spots amid the world's current upheavals. Refugee experts say there are now more people displaced by violence than at any time since World War II—a staggering 51.2 million people, more than half of whom are fleeing conflicts in Syria, Afghanistan and Somalia. About 33 million of the total number of displaced remain within their own countries, which hides their predicament from the rest of the world. But the problem is huge, global and without clear resolution.

According to the Migration Policy Institute, the Syrian and Iraqi conflicts have displaced 13 million people—roughly equivalent to the combined populations of Los Angeles and Orange counties. Turkey has taken in more than 1.6 million refugees; Lebanon, 1.1 million; and Jordan, 600,000. Refugees also have sought sanctuary in Europe and northern Africa, but the crush is heaviest on the bordering nations. Other conflicts have uprooted 11.4 million people in the Central African Republic, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia and eight other African nations. Ethnic conflicts and political instability in Myanmar have displaced 900,000 people there,

**By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



Uma` achule` este yan antau na mañan mañaina gi finaisen dibi gi un` che`lu `sino parientes. Ti gotpe na makanifise gi hechuran konbetsasion tat kumu nesessidat un` patgon gi chagu`. Hagu ni gai kuenta debi un` huñgog haf` inigoñgña kosake antes de u hanau un`nana`lu dibimu gi hilu` ginagau dispensasion. Estague` i antau na che`chu` tautau ni mauleg ta eyag—sentidu na finu` Chamorro—`nai todgi atmos banda magof gi hilu` hinimide yan kinententu.

### Tinayuyot Famaguon

Man-estaba sais na famaguon para uma`egga` i kandet Noche Buena gi Carolinian Utt. `Nai masoda` i bilen, manohge un` ratu. Illegña i un` che`lu, "Maila tafan manaitai". Man-manayuyot dispues makantaye i Niño, si Santa Maria yan San Jose un` sunidun Noche Buena.

Ni unu tumagu` i famaguon man-manaitai `sino para umakantaye i Niño yan mañainaña. Machogue boluntariamente. Ti hoñgiyon para umahassu tinayuyot yan kanta pot mampos man-hoben. Anog na matuñgu` yan man-makreansa pot lina`la` espirituat na machogue fabot para i Nanalibreta.

Hana` sen maggem korasonhu i masusede ya puede mapulan añklan espirituat niha gi anaku` na kareran niha. Estaya huli`e na man-satton gi hineñgen Katolisismu. Si Yuus u baba matan hinasson niha gi katkuet kinalamten para mona.

**By CHRISTINE M. FLOWERS**

Philadelphia Daily News

*Christine M. Flowers is a lawyer and columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News. Readers may send her email at cflowers1961@gmail.com.*



must be protected from the patriarchy by some shallow feminists, or burned at the stake to prevent other uppity women from considering running for office because, like any human, they might make a mess of it.

The same philosophy was at play when Clarence Thomas replaced Thurgood Marshall as the second black man to sit in the Supreme Court. As a "symbol," he was supposed to make the right people proud of him. But because he had his own ideas, and these ideas took him out of liberal icon territory, he became the most reviled Supreme Court justice in modern history. Blacks had invested in this Supreme Court seat with their hopes and expectations, and this particular man's conservative views felt like a personal betrayal. Which leads me to ask: What is the debt he owes, and to whom? It's the same question I ask about Kane, who should be permitted to be mediocre without being protected by some women (something Thomas never got from the black community) or vilified by some men.

If we stopped trying to live our lives through the accomplishments of public figures, many of whom look and sound like us, we'd learn how to recognize the heroic character of those we might actually know, and the heroic potential within ourselves. Or, perhaps, the honesty to accept our ordinary humanity.

## OBAMA

From Page 11

## The world's extraordinary refugee crisis demands extraordinary aid

**T**he Turkish government recently began issuing identification cards to refugees from the more than 3-year-old civil war in neighboring Syria. It was a bureaucratic act that will make it easier for the displaced to receive some services, but that adds a worrisome sense of permanence to what should be a temporary status. The government also is contemplating letting some of the Syrians work legally in Turkey.

including the oppressed Rohingya, a Muslim minority in a Buddhist society. And the list goes on.

Such extraordinary displacements require extraordinary amounts of international aid. The U.N. high commissioner for refugees sought \$1.3 billion from member nations in 2014 for the Syrian regional crisis, but received only 60 percent (the U.S. kicked in \$303 million, the highest). Only a last-minute flurry of donations in December saved efforts by the U.N.'s World Food Program to feed 1.7 million Syrian refugees.

Violence, unfortunately, is an unending aspect of the human experience. That shouldn't blind us to the consequences of those conflicts, whether they involve warring factions in East Africa or U.S. forces invading Iraq.

The great wish so often expressed at the beginning of each new year is for leaders to resolve disputes more peacefully. But given the inevitable dashing of that hope, we urge those same leaders to commit to helping those whose lives are upended by actions far beyond their control.


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# The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian


TODAY



Partly sunny with isolated showers.  
Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.

▲87° ▼78°


FRIDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.  
Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.

▲88° ▼77°


SATURDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.  
Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.

▲88° ▼78°


SUNDAY



Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼78°

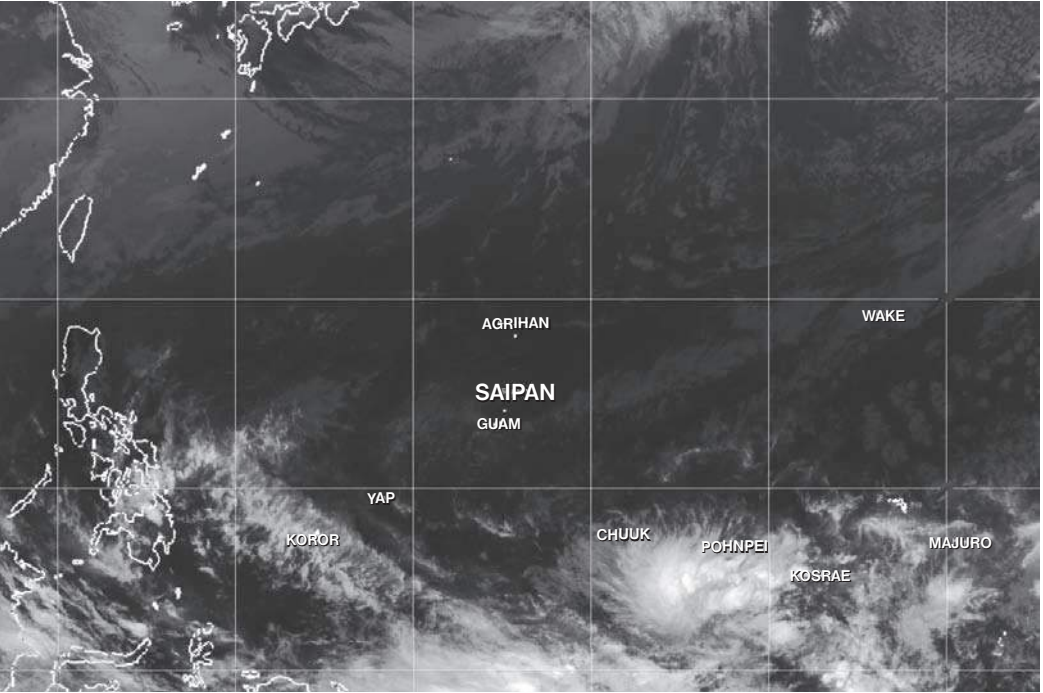
MONDAY



Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼78°

Yesterday's Satellite Image




**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2015**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N180E to Wake Island then continues as a shear line through the Rota channel to beyond 130E at 12N. Scattered showers are found along and up to 150 miles northwest of the cold front. Cloudiness and patchy rain are along and up to 75 miles northwest of the shear line. A near-equatorial trough runs through a weak circulation southwest of Koror at 4N132E to another more significant circulation centered south of Pohnpei near 3N157E. Scattered showers near Koror are within 150 miles of a line from 8N132E to 3N139E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near the equator are south of 3N from 130E to 147E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms just south of Chuuk and Pohnpei and near Kosrae are south of 7N from 150E to 163E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across the southern Marshall Islands and near Tarawa and Butaritari atolls between the equator and 5N from 165E to 180E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Showers	▲ 84	▼ 79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 86	▼ 78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 84	▼ 77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 85	▼ 79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 85	▼ 79
Kosrae	Thunderstoms	▲ 84	▼ 80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 84	▼ 81

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Showers	▲ 76	▼ 62
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 45	▼ 20
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲ 66	▼ 55
Honolulu	Sunny	▲ 76	▼ 64
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 49	▼ 48
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲ 80	▼ 54
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 83	▼ 71
Melbourne	Thundershowers	▲ 91	▼ 63
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 79	▼ 55
New York	Windy	▲ 27	▼ 10
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 45	▼ 36
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 44	▼ 38
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 45	▼ 26
Rome	Showers	▲ 57	▼ 43
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 52	▼ 36
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲ 68	▼ 49
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 33	▼ 19
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 50	▼ 35
Washington, DC	Windy	▲ 27	▼ 12



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
3:34 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.2 Feet
10:22 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
4:14 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
8:58 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:45 AM	6:03 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:03 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Sunday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Monday	6:46 AM	6:05 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	8:36 PM	8:37 AM
Friday	9:23 PM	9:17 AM
Saturday	10:10 PM	9:56 AM
Sunday	10:56 PM	10:34 AM
Monday	11:43 PM	11:12 AM

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3	UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota	UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5	UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4	UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5	UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5	UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7	UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7	UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)				PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	1:10am+1	2, 6 via NRT	DL298	4:35am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily	DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ6063	3:20am	7:10am	3, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily	OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 4, 5, 7	MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1,5 via GUM
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM	UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM	UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM	UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
				UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
				UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM	OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM	UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM	UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM	UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
				UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
				UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
				UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.											
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			SAIPAN TO TINIAN			SAIPAN TO ROTA					
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY			
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat			
			8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily						
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat			
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily						
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily						
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily						
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily						
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily						
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily						
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily						
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily						
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily						
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily									
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily									
			ROTA TO SAIPAN								
			DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY						
			8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat						
			4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat						



Business

TV makers design for streaming video to stay relevant

**LAS VEGAS** (AP)—Does anyone just watch TV anymore? The dramatic shift toward online and mobile viewing is driving television set makers to design as much for streaming video as for watching broadcast or cable channels.

Traditional TV is far from dead, but these days viewers care less about watching shows live and even prefer saving certain series to watch all at once in an evening or weekend of binge-watching. Broadcast networks and hundreds of cable channels share viewer attention with thousands of online services, including amateurs creating their own series on YouTube. Already, Netflix has outbid traditional channels for hits such as “House of Cards.” And Dish this week announced it will sell online access to a bundle of channels including live sports network ESPN for just \$20 a month. Online video will account for a third of all video viewing in 2020, up from about 10 percent in 2013, predicts The Diffusion Group, a research firm that specializes in Internet video.

So how to keep the television set, that focal point of

the American living room for decades, relevant? Design for online video.

At the International CES gadget show this week in Las Vegas, TV makers unveiled new models with 4K resolution, or four times the clarity offered by today’s high definition TVs. They are pushing the features even though not a single TV channel is yet available in 4K. But Internet services such as Netflix, Amazon and M-Go are starting to offer 4K video.

Sony on Monday promised to create more 4K content to watch on those sets. Four popular shows from its entertainment division—“The Goldbergs,” “The Blacklist,” “Masters of Sex” and “The Night Shift”—will soon be available in 4K and it’s working with partners including Netflix and YouTube to deliver more 4K streaming video. Sony also launched an alliance with other TV makers, content providers and distributors to create technical standards for high-quality 4K video.

“It’s going to be the first format primarily driven by streaming,” says Jim Funk, a



AP  
People look at a display of 65 inch Class 4K Ultra HD TVs in the Sony booth during the International CES, Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2015, in Las Vegas.

to be 40 inches, up from 31 inches in 2007. CEA predicts more than 23 million of the units will be 4K TVs this year, about 2.5 times the shipments in 2014. That’s even with the explosion of viewing on tablets and smartphones.

People tend to use phones and tablets while traveling or for shorter video, says Tim Alessi, head of new product development for home entertainment at LG Electronics USA. For a full-length movie, viewers want to replicate the theater in the home. That’s only done through a big TV set.

“When I want a full home-entertainment experience, especially with my family and friends, the TV is still the best way to do that,” agrees Tim Baxter, president and chief operating officer of Samsung Electronics America.

senior vice president at Roku Inc., which makes streaming TV devices.

Beyond 4K, Sharp developed an engineering trick to make its high-end set look even sharper. Samsung added a nanocrystal semiconductor layer to make colors purer and the screen brighter. LG is

pushing organic LED screens with richer colors and pure black—the kind typically limited to smaller displays such as phones because of price.

And Internet connectivity is becoming standard in sets, the way all TVs are color now. LG and Samsung also have ways to easily switch video

between TV and mobile devices, so that if you’re watching a movie on a phone, you can continue it on your TV as soon as you get home.

The Consumer Electronics Association expects TV sales to increase 2 percent to 251 million units this year. The average screen size is projected

Strong dollar means cheap gas, imports for US, pain abroad

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—As the global economy has weakened, a forcefully stronger U.S. dollar has emerged.

The fallout from the greenback’s appreciation is reverberating around the world. A more valuable dollar translates into cheaper oil and the imports lining U.S. store shelves. That represents both a boon for American consumers and a hardship for major oil producers such as Russia, Nigeria and Saudi Arabia.

Major companies such as Nike, Costco and ConAgra Foods warn that the stronger dollar is cutting into their overseas revenue—a trend that could pressure some of the biggest brand names in the stock market.

The combination of falling oil prices and a rising dollar has even led some economists to suggest that average U.S. consumer inflation could approach zero early this year. If it does, the Federal Reserve might have to alter its calculations about when to raise a key interest rate

for the first time since the financial crisis erupted in 2008.

The dollar’s rise has been fueled by a dim outlook for the global economy. Europe is muddling through a slowdown, and accordingly, the dollar has appreciated roughly 12 percent against the euro in the past year.

Japan is mired in a recession, while Brazil just crawled out of one. The Japanese yen has shed about 16 percent of its value against the dollar in the past 12 months, the Brazilian real about 13 percent. In Russia, the ruble’s collapse has left homeowners struggling to repay their dollar-denominated mortgages.

All of that spills over into other markets. Investors seeking to escape the turmoil crowded into U.S. Treasuries on Tuesday, causing the yield on the 10-year note to dip below 2 percent.

Crude oil prices fell more than 4 percent to under \$48 a barrel. And the Standard & Poor’s 500 stock index declined nearly 1 percent amid fears about the global economy.

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—President Barack Obama has selected the former head of a community bank in Hawaii to fill a vacancy on the Federal Reserve Board.

The White House said Tuesday that Obama will nominate Allan R. Landon, the former chief executive of the Bank of Hawaii, to fill one of two vacancies on the seven-member board. The nomination requires Senate confirmation.

The decision comes after a lobbying campaign by community bankers who argued that the Fed, which regulates banks,

should have at least one community banker on its board.

The White House said that Landon had compiled a strong record in leading the Bank of Hawaii, one of the largest in the state, through the 2008 financial crisis. Landon served as chairman and chief executive officer of the bank from 2004 to 2010.

Camden R. Fine, president of the Independent Community Bankers, an industry lobbying group, praised the selection.

“Having someone with community bank experience, such as Landon, on the board will

ensure that community bank interests are more fully understood as the board considers the impact of its policies on smaller banks and the communities and rural areas they serve,” Fine said in a statement.

In addition to Fine’s statement, the White House released other comments praising Landon for the job he did as a bank executive and former chairman of the board of regents at the University of Hawaii.

Landon was nominated to fill the remaining term of Sarah Bloom Raskin, who

stepped down in March after being picked by Obama to become deputy Treasury secretary. The White House indicated Landon would be nominated to fill the final year of Raskin’s term, which ends Jan. 31, 2016, and a full 14-year term after that.

The White House gave no indication when it will put forward a nominee to fill the unexpired term of Jeremy Stein, who left in May to return to his post as an economics professor at Harvard University. That term ends in January 2018.

FTC chief says gadget industry must prioritize privacy

**LAS VEGAS** (AP)—While gadget companies are celebrating a coming bonanza of health trackers, connected cars and “smart” home appliances, the head of the Federal Trade Commission is pressing the tech industry to protect consumer privacy.

Powerful networks of data sensors and connected devices, dubbed the “Internet of Things,” will collect a vast trove of user information that represents “a deeply personal and startlingly complete picture of each of us”—including

our finances, health and even religious leanings, said Edith Ramirez, the chairwoman of the Federal Trade Commission, in prepared remarks Tuesday for the big consumer electronics trade show known as International CES.

Connected consumer devices represent a growing market worth billions of dollars. A host of “smart” TVs, health monitors and other gadgets are on display during the week-long show in Las Vegas. Ramirez urged the global electronics companies, Internet giants and

tech startups at CES to make data security a priority as they build new products. She also called on companies to give consumers more control over how their data is used, and to collect only the data that’s necessary for a product to perform its function.

These are steps privacy advocates have urged before. While Ramirez didn’t propose specific regulations, her remarks underscore the Obama administration’s concerns over consumer privacy. The FTC has made the issue a priority,

pursuing a number of investigations and enforcement actions against tech companies and data brokers that collect and sell consumer information.

The boom in connected devices has the potential to spur global economic growth, improve health and provide other benefits, Ramirez said. But it also allows companies “to digitally monitor our otherwise private activities,” and the “sheer volume of granular data” will allow them to compile more detailed profiles of individuals.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

17,371.64

-130.01

-0.74%

S&P

2,002.61

-17.97

-0.89%

NASDAQ

4,592.74

-59.84

-1.29%

EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar

1.2395

British Pound

0.6605

Canadian Dollar

1.1837

Chinese Yuan

6.2094

Euro

0.8418

Hong Kong Dollar

7.7538

Indian Rupee

63.4087

Indonesian Rupiah

12713.67

Japanese Yen

118.8381

Malaysian Ringgit

3.5696

New Zealand Dollar

1.29

Philippine Peso

45.0105

Singapore Dollar

1.3347

South Korean Won

1099.31

Swiss Franc

1.011

Taiwan Dollar

31.9773

Thailand Baht

32.8822





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# Nation

## GOP takes charge in Congress, runs into swift veto threat

WASHINGTON (AP) -- In a blend of pageantry and politics, Republicans took complete control of Congress for the first time in eight years Tuesday, then ran straight into a White House veto threat against their top-priority legislation to build the Keystone

XL oil pipeline.

Republicans condemned the unexpected announcement, which came at the same time they were savoring the fruits of last fall's elections and speaking brightly about possible bipartisan compromises in the two

years ahead.

"I'm really optimistic about what we can accomplish," said Kentucky Sen. Mitch McConnell, moments after he was recognized as leader of the new Republican majority on one side of the Capitol.

At the other end of the majestic building, Rep. John Boehner of Ohio easily won a third term as House speaker despite attempts by tea party-backed dissidents to topple him. He said the 114th Congress would begin by passing legislation to

"develop more North American energy" among top priorities, adding "We invite the president to support and sign these bipartisan initiatives into law."

It was an offer the White House could and did refuse - in advance. "If this bill passes Congress, the president wouldn't sign it," presidential press secretary Josh Earnest said before Boehner spoke. He said the measure would undermine a review process underway by the administration.

The events spilled out rapidly

on a day that offered a glimpse of the political forces at work in an era of divided government - the intraparty struggle among House Republicans, the coordination that GOP leaders in both houses showed in pursuing a conservative agenda and the blocking power of a Democratic president.

There was well choreographed pageantry as well on a day Republicans installed a 54-46 majority in the Senate and took 246 of the 435 seats in the House, the most in more than 60 years.

## The jury's makeup seen as critical in Boston Marathon case

BOSTON (AP)—To try to save him from the death penalty in the Boston Marathon bombing, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev's lawyers will probably look for jurors who are intellectually curious and eager to learn about other cultures and religions.

Prosecutors, in turn, will no doubt try to pick conservative, patriotic types who have steady work habits, have lived comfortable lives and are particularly sensitive to the randomness of the terror attack.

Such is the conventional wisdom among jury consultants and other legal experts who say the question of whether Tsarnaev receives a death sentence will be all but decided during jury selection.

Tsarnaev, 21, is accused of taking part in the twin bombing at the finish line of the race on April 15, 2013, killing three people and wounding more than 260. He is also charged in the slaying of an MIT police officer.

Prosecutors say Dzhokhar and his brother, Tamerlan—ethnic Chechens who had lived in the United States for about a decade—carried out the attack in retaliation for U.S. wars in Muslim countries. Tamerlan, 26, died in a gunbattle with police days after the bombing.

Given the evidence against Dzhokhar—including incriminating graffiti on the boat where he was captured, and video of him planting a back-

pack at the site of the one of the blasts—legal experts say there is little doubt he will be found guilty.

They say his lawyers are concentrating instead on saving him from a death sentence from the jury during the penalty phase. They are expected to argue that Tsarnaev had a difficult childhood and fell under the malignant influence of his older brother, who embraced a radical brand of Islam.

"Any time the death penalty is on the table, the defense is going to want people who will look past the crime and try to understand why. Not just what happened, but how could this happen and why did this happen, what was the rationale?"

said Karen Fleming-Ginn, a jury consultant who worked for prosecutors in the trial of Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh and has supplied her expertise to defense attorneys in 60 other capital cases.

Fleming-Ginn said the defense will look for jurors who are naturally curious, like to travel and want to learn about the world.

"Typically, these are people who are educated, they can see shades of gray a little bit better, they are not going to be black and white, they might have more of a sense of mercy," she said.

The government is likely to seek out jurors who have lived life on the straight and narrow.

## Time capsule dating to 1795 included coins, newspapers

BOSTON (AP)—Early residents of Boston valued a robust press as much as their history and currency if the contents of a time capsule dating back to the years just after the Revolutionary War are any guide.

When conservators at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston gingerly removed items from the box Tuesday, they found five tightly folded newspapers, a medal depicting George Washington, a silver plaque, two dozen coins, including one dating to 1655, and the seal of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

While some of the coins appeared corroded, other items were in good condition and fingerprints could be seen on the silver plaque.

The capsule was embedded in a cornerstone of the Massachusetts Statehouse when construction began in 1795. It was placed there by Revolutionary era luminaries including Paul Revere and Samuel Adams, governor of Massachusetts at the time.

The contents were shifted to what was believed to be a copper box in 1855 and placed back into the foundation of Statehouse. The box remained there until it was rediscovered last year during an ongoing water filtration project at the building. The box was actually brass, according to conservators.

The oldest coin in the box was a 1652 "Pine Tree Schilling," made at a time when the colony didn't have royal authority to create its own currency. Pine trees were a valuable commodity at the time. The trees



Museum of Fine Arts Boston Head of Objects Conservation Pam Hatchfield removes a folded 19th century newspaper from a time capsule at the museum, Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2015, in Boston. The original capsule was made of cowhide and believed to have been embedded in a cornerstone when construction on the state Capitol building began in 1795. The contents were shifted to a metal box in 1855 which was unearthed last month at the Statehouse.

were used as ship masts.

Michael Comeau, executive director of the Massachusetts Archives and Commonwealth Museum, said he has seen the coins offered for as much as \$75,000, although given the context of this particular coin and the association with Paul Revere and Samuel Adams, the value would likely be much higher.

The newspapers were folded in such a way that the names of the publications weren't always visible, but one might have been a copy of the Boston Evening Trav-

eller—a newspaper operation that was eventually absorbed into the current Boston Herald.

A portion of one of the papers that was visible showed a listing of the arrivals of whalers from various ports to Boston. Conservators didn't try to unfold the papers.

Pam Hatchfield, the head of objects conservation for the museum, removed each item using a slew of tools including her grandfather's dental tool. Hatchfield said the paper in the box was in "amazingly good

condition."

Massachusetts state Secretary William Galvin said he expects the items will be on display at the museum for a period of time, but that eventually they will again be returned to the foundation to be discovered by a future generation of Bay State residents.

Galvin said he didn't know if modern items might be added to the foundation.

Comeau said the objects in the box are a bridge back in time.

"This is the stuff of history," he said.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### 2 arrested after shooting that wounded 2 NYC police officers

NEW YORK (AP)—Two suspects in an armed holdup followed by a wild shootout that left a pair of plainclothes police officers wounded were arrested Tuesday after an intense manhunt. Security video showed one of the men, Jason Polanco, blasting away at the officers with a powerful .44 Magnum pistol as they pursued him Monday night following the robbery in a Bronx grocery store, police said. Polanco, 23, was arrested on attempted murder and robbery charges. The second man, 28-year-old Joshua Kemp, was charged with robbery. The names of their attorneys were not immediately available.

#### First black female Republican joins US Congress

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Mia Love of Utah on Tuesday became the first black female Republican in Congress as she was sworn in along with 57 other freshmen members of the U.S. House. Love, 39, a former mayor of Saratoga Springs, was elected in November in Utah's 4th District. She already has started making appearances on cable news channels and Sunday talk shows, most recently as a guest on ABC's "This Week." Love acknowledged the attention in a statement Tuesday but added, "I assure the voters of Utah, I'm not going to forget where I live."

#### Gov. Cuomo eulogizes dad Mario as a crusader, poet, friend

NEW YORK (AP)—Former Gov. Mario Cuomo's legacy as a liberal champion and powerful orator was remembered at his funeral Tuesday by one who knew him best—Gov. Andrew Cuomo, his son. "At his core, he was a philosopher. He was a poet. He was an advocate. He was a crusader. Mario Cuomo was the keynote speaker for our better angels," the younger Cuomo said in a eulogy that spanned his father's background as the son of immigrants, his biggest

speeches and his basketball prowess. The former three-term governor—who flirted with but never made a presidential run and turned down an opportunity to be nominated for the U.S. Supreme Court—died Thursday, hours after his son was inaugurated for a second term.

#### Gunman, 1 other person dead in shooting at veterans' clinic

EL PASO, Texas (AP)—A gunman opened fire at a veterans' medical clinic in West Texas on Tuesday, killing one other person, officials said. The gunman was also killed. Investigators, who took no questions from reporters during a Tuesday night news conference, did not say whether the gunman killed himself or was killed by someone else. They also provided no details on the victim or the gunman and no possible motive for the shooting. Fort Bliss Maj. Gen. Stephen M. Twitty said the shooting happened at the El Paso Veterans Affairs Health Care System's clinic, which is in a complex that includes the William Beaumont Army Medical Center. The entire complex was locked down Tuesday as authorities responded to the shooting.

#### Reward in shooting of California parents, baby's death

LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP)—Los Angeles County supervisors offered a \$25,000 reward Tuesday to help catch an attacker who shot and wounded three members of a family and kidnapped a 3-week-old girl who was later found dead in a trash bin near the Mexican border. The award for information leading to a capture and conviction comes a day after police said they had no leads and no motive for the Saturday attack in Long Beach that wounded the parents and uncle of Eliza Delacruz. Detectives had only a vague description of a man who may be black or Hispanic and were trying to discover whether surveillance cameras in Imperial Beach may have captured any images.



# Asia

## Tail of missing AirAsia plane discovered in Java Sea

**PANGKALAN BUN, Indonesia** (AP) -- Divers and an unmanned underwater vehicle spotted the tail of the missing AirAsia plane in the Java Sea on Wednesday, the first confirmed sighting of any major wreckage 11 days after Flight 8501 disappeared with 162 people on board, an official said.

Following days of strong currents and murky water that hindered the operation, searchers managed to get a photograph of the debris, National Search and Rescue chief Henry Bambang Soelistyo told reporters.

The find is particularly important because the all-important cockpit voice and flight data recorders, or black boxes, are located in the aircraft's tail. Small pieces of the plane, such as seats, have previously been spotted.

Soelistyo said the top priority remains recovering more bodies along with the black boxes. So far, 40 corpses have been found, including an additional one announced Wednesday, but time is running out.

At two weeks, most corpses



will sink, said Anton Castilani, head of the country's disaster identification victim unit, and

there are already signs of serious decomposition.

The Airbus A320 went down

Dec. 28, halfway through a two-hour flight between Indonesia's second-largest city of Indone-

sia and Singapore, killing everyone on board. It is not clear what caused the crash, but bad

AP  
Russian rescuers return after a search operation with an Indonesian Air Force helicopter for the victims of AirAsia Flight 8501, at the airport in Pangkalan Bun, Indonesia, Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2015.

weather is believed to be a contributing factor.

Just before losing contact, the pilot told air traffic control he was approaching threatening clouds, but was denied permission to climb to a higher altitude because of heavy air traffic. No distress signal was issued.

Ships equipped with sonar devices have also identified what they believe to be the fuselage of the plane. Several other big chunks have been found, the largest measuring 14 meters by 4 meters, though they have not yet received visual confirmation.

The search area for bodies and debris was expanded this week to allow for the strong currents that have been pushing debris around, said Indonesian search and rescue operation coordinator Tatang Zainudin.

## As families grieve, China manages public emotions

**By DIDI TANG**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**SHANGHAI** (AP)—Some wailed and some staggered with grief as relatives of the 36 people killed in Shanghai's New Year's Eve stampede visited the disaster site for seventh-day commemorations that are a revered ritual in China.

But each family was allowed to stay only about five minutes in the tightly managed visits Tuesday, and government workers roughly dragged away one middle-aged woman when she began crying out emotionally.

The government's strict arrangements reflect efforts to keep tight controls over the disaster's aftermath and prevent distraught relatives from coalescing into a critical group that would draw sympathy and galvanize public calls for greater accountability.

"Such a major public safety incident can tug the heartstrings of the public, and the acts and words by victims' relatives can make the public sentiments swing, making it a key task for authorities to control the families, limiting their contacts with each other or with the media," said Zhao Chu, a Shanghai-based independent commentator.

"Struck by the same tragedy, the relatives can easily resonate with each other, and it's only natural they want to band together to take collective actions and make collective appeals to the public, and that could mean

the authorities losing control over the social sentiments."

The authorities' grip over such sentiments comes at the expense of the victims' families, Zhao said. "The method is brusque toward the families, preventing them from resorting to law and to the media, but—in a positive way—it can indeed alleviate the shock to the public."

The victims' relatives laid bouquets of white and yellow chrysanthemums and bowed deeply to the statue of the city's first Communist mayor that overlooks the 17 concrete steps on Shanghai's famed riverfront known as the Bund where the stampede took place.

Three dozen people, including a 12-year-old boy, were trampled and asphyxiated amid a crowd of hundreds of thousands of New Year's revelers.

Late Tuesday night, Chinese state media reported that national authorities as well as governments in Shanghai and Beijing planned to tighten crowd controls during holiday events and other mass gatherings. The reports in the official Xinhua News Agency didn't specify what additional measures would be taken other than canceling events if they violated safety rules and enforcing existing regulations on sales and promotions.

The Beijing Morning Post reported Wednesday that a popular lantern exhibition in Shanghai had been canceled out of concern that attendance would surpass capacity.

Accompanied by government workers, the families Tuesday were kept in vans waiting for their turns to mourn on the seventh day after death, when the deceased person's soul is believed to return to the earthly world after disappearing. Some relatives brought photos and offered fruits and burned some fake money.

Journalists were corralled several feet away only to observe the occasional wails from the grieving.

"Why are your media shooting there? Dare you publish what you have shot?" a young man called out to the journalists as he was led away from the mourning site. "It's been a week. The government does not care about us. The government does not talk to us."

A middle-aged woman in the same group broke down earlier. "I want to die. I want to die," she cried out. "My child just came to see the great city of Shanghai. My child did not come back."

A close friend of a victim said Tuesday that the families have been kept apart and in the company of government minders so they could not conduct media interviews. She said many relatives believe their phones are being monitored and that they have come under pressure to cooperate with authorities. She requested anonymity over fears of possible government reprisals. More family members refused to be interviewed when contacted over the phone.

## South Korea: North Korea has 6,000-member cyber army

**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)—South Korea said Tuesday that rival North Korea has a 6,000-member cyber army dedicated to disrupting the South's military and government, a dramatic increase from an earlier estimate of 3,000 such specialists.

Without elaborating, Seoul's Defense Ministry also said in a report that North Korea may also have gained the ability to strike the U.S. mainland because of its progress in missile technology demonstrated in recent long-range missile tests. It also said North Korea is advancing in efforts to miniaturize nuclear warheads to mount on such missiles.

There is considerable mys-

tery, and outside debate, about the state of North Korea's opaque nuclear and missile programs, which it has persisted in pursuing for decades despite widespread domestic poverty and heavy international sanctions and criticism.

North Korea has conducted three nuclear tests since 2006, the most recent in early 2013, and experts believe it has a handful of crude nuclear bombs. Many outside observers speculate that it has not mastered the technology to make the bombs small enough to put on long-range missiles, although some say it may be able to arm shorter-range missiles with warheads.

North Korea has conducted

several long-range rocket tests, which are seen as covers for banned tests meant to develop missiles that could hit mainland American shores. North Korea says its launches are meant to put peaceful satellites into orbit, and that its nuclear program is crucial to protecting itself from U.S. hostility.

The South Korean Defense Ministry report said North Korea's 6,000 cyber warriors are dedicated to "paralyzing the South psychologically and materially" and have been conducting cyberattacks to disrupt the South's military operations and main government systems. It didn't describe how it made its assessments.

## All 13 on New Zealand skydiving plane leap out before crash

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand** (AP)—All 13 people aboard a New Zealand skydiving plane that suffered an apparent engine failure Wednesday managed to leap out in parachutes moments before the plane plunged into a lake, according to authorities.

Police spokeswoman Kim Perks said there were six passengers, six crew members and a pilot aboard the plane operated by Skydive Taupo. She said all of them landed safely and that some had been checked by medical staff but she didn't believe any suffered significant injuries.

She said each of the crew members had planned to tandem dive with one of the passengers, and they managed to do just that as they abandoned

the aircraft after the apparent engine failure. She said the pilot also leaped to safety in a parachute.

Roy Clements, the chief executive of Skydive Taupo, said in a brief statement the plane encountered an engine problem shortly after it had taken off. He said transport authorities were on their way to the crash site to begin an investigation.

On its website, the company offers skydives from up to 15,000 feet which come with up to one minute of freefall: "You shimmy to the door until your feet are dangling over the edge. 3...2...1. out you go!!!!!" the company's site says.

Robbie Graham, an artist who works at the Wildwood Art Gallery in the town of Waitahanui, said he was standing in front

of the gallery when he saw a number of people in parachutes coming down above the lake about 1 kilometer (0.6 miles) away. He said he didn't see the plane crash.

"I saw all these people coming down, and I thought that was a crazy place to be coming down, that they would all end up in the lake," he said.

He said the area is popular for skydiving but most people typically leap out of planes a few miles to the north, near the Taupo Airport and above dry land.

He said the parachutists were about 200 meters (656 feet) above the water when he saw them, and the only thing that made sense to him was that perhaps they were engaged in some kind of training exercise.



# World

## In Iraq's war against extremists, a quiet sectarian purge

**RAWASHID, Iraq (AP)**—Sunni residents of this tiny village north of Baghdad are all gone. Their homes now have Shiite graffiti scrawled on the walls. Shiite banners, many emblazoned with images of revered saints, are hoisted on the roofs.

The only people here now are Shiite fighters, who nearly two weeks ago helped Iraqi forces wrest the town from the Islamic State group. Outside one of the homes the fighters have occupied, their leader sat with his men on a recent day, warming themselves by a fire where tea brewed.

He made it clear: They have no intention of allowing the Sunnis back, accusing them of supporting the extremists.

"If we allow the residents of this village to return to their homes, they will do it all over again to us," said Adnan Hassan, 59. The militants used the village to fire mortars at the nearby, mainly Shiite city of Balad—and they still hold villages only a few miles away.

"These are our lands. They were taken away from us centuries ago," he told The Associated Press, pointing to the orchards and lush farmlands surrounding the village's relatively affluent homes.

Hassan's claim of Shiite ownership of the lands is tenuous at best. But his comments expose a



In this Saturday, Jan. 3, 2015 photo, Adnan Hassan, 59, right, and another Shiite militia member are seen outside a house they took over in Al-Rawashid a Sunni village outside the Iraqi city of Balad.

grim side of Iraq's fight against the Sunni militants of the Islamic State group: The war is being used by Shiite militiamen to change the demographics of Sunni areas, in an attempt to solidify Shiite control. The practice appears mostly focused on Sunni areas astride roads leading to important Shiite shrines to the north and south of the capital, Baghdad.

The apparent sectarian cleansing plants the seeds of

future conflict—or even an outright civil war that could eventually break up the nation along sectarian and ethnic lines, a fate that a growing number of Iraqis, particularly Sunnis, see as the solution to the nation's bloody turmoil.

Tens of thousands of Iraq's Sunnis fled their home regions over the past year to escape the brutal rule of the Islamic State group. The militants swept over much of the north and west of

Iraq, overrunning Sunni-majority regions all the way down to the doorstep of Baghdad.

Shiite-led security forces and militias made up of Shiite volunteers have since driven the militants out of some of those areas. But the Sunni residents have mostly been prevented from returning, on the grounds that the regions are not yet safe. In many cases, they have been unable to return because their homes have

been destroyed in the fighting or blown up by militiamen.

Sunnis who stayed put and endured Islamic State governance face a worse predicament when Shiite forces recapture their areas. They are accused of helping the militants, often their homes are blown up, men jailed or entire families banished, with their properties given to Shiites.

The militiamen appear to be the ones enforcing the demographic change, unsettling the Shiite-led government. The danger is real enough that Shiite Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has spoken forcefully about the need for national unity. Addressing graduating army cadets Tuesday, he called for residents of liberated areas to be allowed to return to their homes, so that their suffering ends. In an unusually bold gesture of reconciliation, he visited the capital's two landmark Sunni and Shiite shrines on Friday.

Iraq's top Shiite cleric, the Iranian-born Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, condemned the excesses of militiamen in a fatwa, or an edict, issued last weekend, specifically citing the theft of property in areas liberated from the Islamic State group.

"What we are dealing with here is a real attempt at demographic change, coupled with blatant abuses," Sunni politician

Hamed al-Mutlaq told The Associated Press. "It is now extremely difficult for the Sunnis to return to their homes"—not because their homes have been destroyed, he added, "it is genuine fear that is stopping them."

The sectarian shift comes on top of one that occurred in the wave of vicious sectarian fighting sparked in 2006, when Sunni militants blew up the Shiite shrine of Imam al-Askari in the city of Samarra, north of Baghdad. That conflict became a virtual civil war, and it purged Baghdad of most mixed neighborhoods, leaving it sharply divided between Shiite and Sunni districts.

In Diyala province, northeast of the capital, Islamic State militants have almost completely been driven out, but Sunni Arab families have not been allowed back, said Raad al-Dahlaki, a Sunni lawmaker from the province. The province is a major route for Iranian pilgrims traveling overland to shrines in Iraq.

"They say they will only allow 'loyal' residents to go back. This is an excuse to change the demographics of the province," al-Dahlaki said.

Al-Mutlaq and other Sunni politicians said the area around Balad, about 65 kilometers (40 miles) north of Baghdad, is also targeted to keep out Sunnis.

## Officials say suicide bomber kills at least 15 in Yemen

**SANAA, Yemen (AP)**—A suicide bomber driving a minibus full of explosives killed at least 15 people Wednesday morning near a police academy in the heart of Yemen's capital, Sanaa, security officials said.

The blast wounded at least 40 people, officials said. The officials spoke on condition of

anonymity as they weren't authorized to brief journalists.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. Yemen's local al-Qaida branch, targeted in frequent U.S. drone strikes in the country, has carried out similar attacks in the past. Washington considers al-Qaida in Yemen to be the

world's most dangerous branch of the terror network as it has been linked to several failed attacks on the U.S. homeland.

The blast comes as Shiite rebels known as Houthis seized large areas of Yemen, including Sanaa, earlier this year as part of a protracted power struggle with President Abed Rabbo Mansour

Hadi. Their critics view them as a proxy for Shiite Iran, charges the rebels deny. Al-Qaida militants have targeted the rebels in bombings in the past.

An al-Qaida suicide bomber killed at least 24 people on Dec. 31 in an attack on Houthis as they commemorated the birth of the Prophet Muhammad.

## Venezuelan textbooks teach math, science, socialism

**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)**—Students here study math by calculating the benefits of government land takeovers. They practice English by reciting where late President Hugo Chavez was born and learn civics by explaining why the elderly should give him thanks.

Pro-administration messages scattered through the pages of Venezuela's textbooks have become yet another point of conflict in this hyper-polarized country, where Chavez's socialist party won a bare majority in the presidential elections of 2013.

Parents recently tossed books into the streets in front of some schools and burned them, acts the loyalist media compared to censorship by the Nazis in 1930s Germany. As children head back to school after winter break, many Venezuelans remain outraged over texts that treat the founder of a deeply divisive socialist revolution with the sort of rever-

ence U.S. textbooks reserve for George Washington.

Math lessons include calculations of how much production has increased as a result of the government's agrarian reform initiative, and how much land the government still has to reclaim from private owners. Students are asked to figure out how much shoppers save at government-subsidized appliance stores created by Chavez.

Learning English? Answer the question, "Where was Hugo Chavez born?"

"They are brainwashing our kids, erasing our nation's history, and replacing it with their own version," said information technology worker Hector Cuevas, who was appalled when his son brought home the books as a sixth-grader.

For defenders, the "Bolivarian" textbooks introduced in 2011 include history traditionally left out of grade school education, and tie lessons to

real-life examples in socialist Venezuela.

Minister of Education Hector Rodriguez defended the books this fall, and also urged critics to work with the government to improve the collection.

"Certainly they can be improved, like any human endeavor," he said, according to Venezuelan news website Noticias24. "Those who want to criticize should read the books, and when they find an error they should let us know to correct it."

But for opponents, the problem is not errors so much as what they see as attacks on government foes and propaganda for controversial programs.

An early edition of the government's social studies book shows a photo of an elderly person writing, "Thanks, Chavez" and instructs students to explain why.

One book interrupts an explanation of fractions to praise a food program "developed by the Bolivarian government to

ensure that the poor can eat."

While all students receive the books, they are in widest use in poor areas, where they are often the only option for teachers. At Consuelo Navas Tovar high school at the fringes of one of Caracas' sprawling slums, students in navy blue uniforms study their English textbooks at grimy desks crammed into a bare-walled classroom.

The book has students discuss a study hall sponsored by a government agency known by an arcane acronym.

"It's a project of FUNDABIT!" one student is told to say.

"That is excellent!" the partner replies.

Geometry professor Tomas Guardia of Central University of Venezuela has spent months documenting what he and his colleagues call basic errors in math books. One defines a square as a shape with four sides, when that could be a rectangle or a rhombus.

## McDonald's runs out of french fries in Venezuela

**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)**—Forget the french fries. How about a side of yuca with that Big Mac?

Venezuela's more than 100 McDonald's franchises have run out of potatoes and are now serving alternatives like deep-fried arepa flatbreads or yuca, a starchy staple of traditional South American cooking.

McDonald's is blaming a contract dispute with West Coast dock workers for halting the export of frozen fries to the country. The dispute also caused several days of french fry rationing in Japan last month. But Sonia Ruseler, an Argentina-based spokeswoman for Arcos Dorados, which runs McDonald's restaurants in Latin America, declined to say Tuesday why Venezuela's neighbors are not suffering from similar scarcity.

Accustomed to shortages of their favorite foods, and equally in the habit of grumbling about the government as they walk away empty-handed, many Venezuelans assume the embattled socialist administration is to blame.

"It's because of the situation here; it's a total debacle," said Maria Guerreiro, who huffed out of a Caracas McDonald's with her family when she found out they were serving only fries

made of yuca, which is also known as cassava. Her daughter won't eat the super-starchy root, she said, and they'd come for the sole purpose of treating the two-year-old to a Happy Meal.

Ruseler said the corporation is working to resolve the shortages, and in the meantime, "will continue to give our clients the McDonald's experience, offering 100 percent Venezuelan options."

Rival Burger King, meanwhile, used sly social media posts Tuesday to remind Venezuelans that some fast food chains are still offering American-style fries.

John Toasperm, chief marketing officer with the US Potato Board, noted that Venezuela's import of frozen potatoes fell off a cliff long before the labor dispute escalated. During the first 10 months of 2014, the country imported just 14 percent of the frozen fries from major McDonald's supplier Washington State that it brought in for the same period the year before, according to federal data compiled by the board.

Most of the shortages in Venezuela are driven in part by the country's tight currency controls, which make it hard to get dollars at a subsidized rate for imports while creating a thriving black market for currency.



# Environment

## Study: Your all-electric car may not be so green

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**  
AP SCIENCE WRITER

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—People who own all-electric cars where coal generates the power may think they are helping the environment. But a new study finds their vehicles actually make the air dirtier, worsening global warming.

Ethanol isn't so green, either. "It's kind of hard to beat gasoline" for public and environmental health, said study co-author Julian Marshall, an engineering professor at the University of Minnesota. "A lot of the technologies that we think of as being clean ... are not better than gasoline."

The key is where the source of the electricity all-electric cars. If it comes from coal, the electric cars produce 3.6 times more soot and smog deaths than gas, because of the pollution made in generating the electricity, according to the study that is published Monday by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. They also are significantly worse at heat-trapping carbon dioxide that worsens global warming, it found.

The study examines environmental costs for cars' entire life cycle, including where power comes from and the environmental effects of building batteries.

### Pacific Coast sea bird die-off puzzles scientists

**SALEM, Oregon (AP)**—Scientists are trying to figure out what's behind the deaths of seabirds that have been found by the hundreds along the Pacific Coast since October.

Mass die-offs of the small, white-bellied gray birds known as Cassin's auklets have been reported from British Columbia to San Luis Obispo, California.

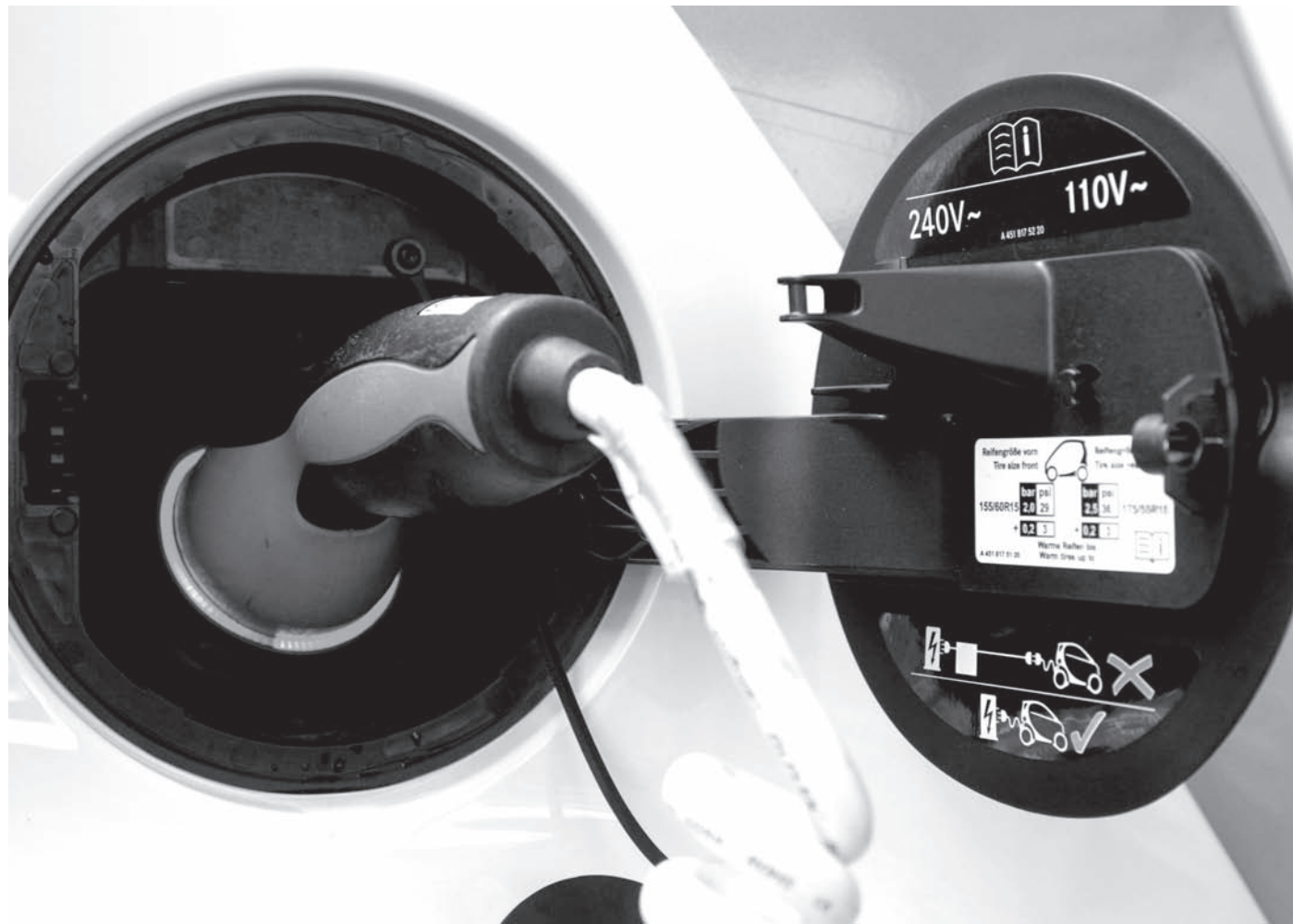
It's normal for some seabirds to die during harsh winter conditions, especially during big storms, but the scale of the current die-off is unusual.

"To be this lengthy and geographically widespread, I think is kind of unprecedented," Philip Johnson, executive director of the Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition, told the Salem Statesman Journal. "It's an interesting and somewhat mysterious event."

The birds appear to be starving to death, so experts don't believe a toxin is the culprit, said Julia Burco, a wildlife veterinarian for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

But why the birds can't find food is a mystery.

Researchers say it could be the result of a successful breeding season, leading to too many young birds competing for food. Unusually violent storms might



AP  
In this photo taken July 14, 2010, an electric plug charges a Smart Car electric drive vehicle in New York.

neering professor.

The study finds all-electric vehicles cause 86 percent more deaths from air pollution than do cars powered by regular gasoline. Coal produces 39 percent of the country's electricity, according to the Department of Energy.

But if the power supply comes from natural gas, the all-electric car produces half as many air pollution health problems as gas-powered cars do. And if the power comes from wind, water or wave energy, it produces about one-quarter of the air pollution deaths.

Hybrids and diesel engines are cleaner than gas, causing fewer air pollution deaths and spewing less heat-trapping gas.

But ethanol isn't, with 80 percent more air pollution mortality, according to the study.

"If we're using ethanol for environmental benefits, for air quality and climate change, we're going down the wrong path," Hill said.

"Unfortunately, when a wire is connected to an electric vehicle at one end and a coal-fired power plant at the other end, the environmental consequences are worse than driving a normal gasoline-powered car," said Ken Caldeira of the Carnegie Institution for Science, who

wasn't part of the study but praised it.

The states with the highest percentage of electricity coming from coal, according to the Department of Energy, are West Virginia, Wyoming, Ohio, North Dakota, and Illinois.

Still, there's something to

be said for the idea of helping foster a cleaner technology that will be better once it is connect-

ed to a cleaner grid, said study co-author Jason Hill, another University of Minnesota engi-

### Science Matters

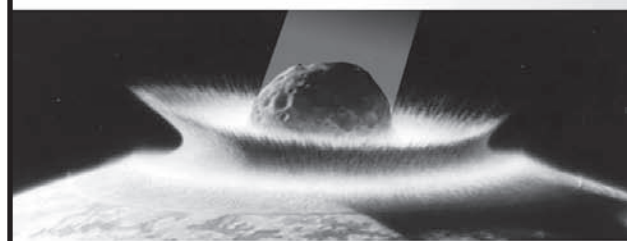
## Dead dinos: A second smoking gun

Researchers say they have found strong evidence of events in India that coincided with the sudden end of the dinosaurs; the question is a long-running scientific controversy.

**225** **AGE OF DINOSAURS** **66** **TODAY** **Except for birds, all dinosaurs suddenly died out worldwide**

### Leading theory why: Asteroid impact

Asteroid or meteor collided with Earth near what is now Mexico's Yucatan; debris filled the atmosphere, killing plant life



### Top alternative: Volcanoes

Mass of volcanoes now called the **Deccan Traps** erupted 66 million years ago for 750,000 years; gases poisoned atmosphere

**New evidence** comes from precise rock dating technique; indicates that eruptions coincided with dinosaurs' extinction

Volcanic layers in the Deccan Traps



Continents 66 million years ago



**NORTH AMERICA**

**Chicxulub, Mexico**

**SOUTH AMERICA**

**"Antipodal theory" is that impact triggered volcanoes on opposite side of Earth**

**AFRICA**

**ASIA**

**India**

Note: Yucatan is not exactly opposite Deccan; eastern Pacific is, and there are signs of asteroid impact there

Source: Blair Schoene and Gerta Keller of Princeton University; Science magazine  
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, TNS



AP  
In this Saturday, July 8, 2006, file photo, a Cassin's auklet chick is displayed at the Farallon National Wildlife Refuge, in San Francisco.



# Life & Style

## A slimmed-down American Idol returns for season 14

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—“American Idol” is practicing addition and subtraction in its 14th season.

Longtime judge, short-time mentor Randy Jackson is gone. Music executive Scott Borchetta, whose impressive credentials include acting as mentor to Taylor Swift, will play that role for contestants and the winner will be signed to Borchetta’s Big Machine Records.

There’s another shake up ahead for the series, which returns with an hour-long episode Wednesday (8 p.m. EST) and a two-hour episode Thursday (8 p.m. EST): Starting with the live shows in mid-March, “American Idol” will cut back to a two-hour show once a week, on Wednesday.

It’s a logical move given the aging show’s ratings decline in an increasingly competitive entertainment landscape, said analyst Brad Adgate of Horizon Media. “American Idol” dipped last season to an all-time low weekly average of 10.2 million viewers, according to Nielsen company figures.

That’s about a third of the 30.2 million the singing con-



**AP**  
In this Dec. 9, 2014 file photo, from left, singer Keith Urban, singer and actress Jennifer Lopez, and singer Harry Connick, Jr. arrive on set of American Idol XIV in Los Angeles.

test hit at its peak in 2006, when Taylor Hicks claimed the title over runner-up Katharine

McPhee. But “Idol” remains a relatively strong performer for Fox, one the network seeks to

protect, Adgate said.

“Whatever audience erosion will happen this year will be mitigated by limiting the show to one night,” he said.

It’s only fair to viewers to reduce the demand on their time, said executive producer Trish Kinane, given that the once-unique “American Idol” is now part of a flood of talent shows, including NBC’s popular “The Voice.”

“To commit to three hours a week for our or any other of

the shows is too much, even if you adore these (talent) shows,” she said.

The compressed schedule will allow for a better program, one that combines performances with the results of viewer voting for the previous week’s competition, Kinane said.

All the contestants will be on hand for the live episodes, “dressed, ready and with their songs rehearsed,” only to find out who is being eliminated, according to

Kinane. The results won’t be announced at the beginning of the show, but in a “more dramatic way,” she said, holding details back for now.

The show will retain a familiar look. Ryan Seacrest, the sole original cast member, is returning as host, and Harry Connick Jr., Jennifer Lopez and Keith Urban will be back for their second year together as judges.

All that’s needed now is the kind of compelling contestants and future stars that “American Idol” has discovered in the past, including Kelly Clarkson, Carrie Underwood and Jennifer Hudson.

“If I have a criticism of the show for us last year, it is that we haven’t found, in the last two years, a group of kids who have captured the imagination of the public,” Peter Rice, chairman and CEO of Fox Networks Group, told a news conference after the 2014 season’s conclusion.

That bar will be met, Kinane said, with outstanding performers discovered in auditions held in Nashville, Tennessee; New Orleans; San Francisco; and elsewhere. She offered hints about one contestant, whom she described “as a girl who had never sung in public before the first audition” but ended up in the top 24.

“She’s really good, but whether she’ll win or not is unsure because she’s quite raw. Can her raw talent develop through the process” is the question, Kinane said.

As is the performance of “American Idol” itself.

## A devoted Sean Penn helps US man recover from Bolivia ordeal

**LIMA, Peru (AP)**—It began with an attempt to salvage an ill-fated investment in Bolivian rice farms, devolved into a Third World prison nightmare and climaxed with an escape engineered with the help of actor Sean Penn.

But, so far, there has been no Hollywood ending for Jacob Ostreicher.

In the year since he was spirited out of Bolivia, the 55-year-old has struggled to rebuild a life upended by corrupt officials who tried to extort Ostreicher and had him imprisoned without charge while bleeding the rice venture dry.

The ordeal shredded the Brooklyn man’s marriage, drained his bank account and nearly stole his sanity.

“Certain days I don’t function,” Ostreicher told The Associated Press in a series of phone conversations, his first media interview since his rescue. “It’s hard to start a new life.”

The former flooring business owner lives alone in Los Angeles and says he’s still trying to find a new line of work. He says he is not living off charity, never has, but has gotten huge emotional support

from family, the Jewish community and a few of Hollywood’s biggest stars.

None have done more than Penn.

In late 2012, the Oscar-winning actor flew to Bolivia to investigate Ostreicher’s case at the urging of actor Mark Wahlberg.

Ostreicher, who is an Orthodox Jew, had the attention of the Aleph Institute, a foundation that helps incarcerated Jews. The Florida-based group asked Wahlberg to reach out to Penn, who is widely known for his Haiti relief efforts and closeness to leftist Latin American leaders.

Penn became convinced Ostreicher had been unjustly imprisoned since mid-2011 so corrupt authorities could drain the assets of the \$25 million rice-farming operation in which he was a minor investor. Though he was accused of money-laundering, no evidence was ever presented.

Penn was self-effacing when asked about his odd-couple friendship with Ostreicher and why he decided to help. “What can I say? He was likable,”



Ostreicher

When Penn asked Bolivian President Evo Morales to intercede, Penn got a tepid response.

So he exposed the extortion ring, sparking a scandal that eventually would see 14 Bolivian officials jailed—the ring’s No. 2 figure entered a guilty plea last week—while others fled the country.

Penn then got Ostreicher moved to a medical clinic. The New Yorker had withered to 107 pounds from a liquids-only hunger strike to protest his imprisonment. Penn leveraged his Venezuelan connections—he was close to the late President Hugo Chavez—to get armed Venezuelan security guards assigned to protect him, fearing he’d be targeted for exposing the extortion ring.

Even though he had endured more than 30 court hearings, Ostreicher continued to insist he wanted to clear his name in Bolivia.

Penn told him to let it go. “He held me down with both hands and looked at me and said, ‘I am going to get you home,’” Ostreicher recalled.

## Lawsuit alleges Dr. Dre, Jimmy Iovine swindled Beats partner

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)**—Rapper Dr. Dre and record producer Jimmy Iovine are being vilified as scam artists in a lawsuit that alleges the duo duped one of their former partners in Beat Electronics before selling the trendy headphone maker to Apple for \$3 billion last year.

The complaint filed Tuesday in San Mateo Superior Court accuses Dre and Iovine of double crossing Noel Lee, the founder of video and audio cable maker Monster LLC.

Lee once held a 5 percent stake in Beats as part of a partnership between the headphone maker and Monster that ended in 2012. The lawsuit alleges Dre and Iovine orchestrated a “sham” deal with smartphone maker HTC in 2011 that led to the termination of the Monster alliance.

The suit alleges the shady maneuvering prompted Lee to pare his stake in Beats to 1.25 percent before selling his remaining holdings for \$5.5 mil-

lion in the autumn of 2013 after being assured by Beats executives that there were no plans to sell the company for at least several years.

Beats announced its sale to Apple in May, opening the door for Dre and Iovine to become executives at the iPhone and iPad maker. Had he held on to his 1.25 percent stake, Lee would have received more than \$30 million in the Apple deal. His original 5 percent stake would have been worth roughly \$150 million.

Both Dre, whose real name is Andre Young, and Iovine, a longtime recording industry executive, reaped the biggest jackpots in the Apple deal, though the precise size of their windfalls hasn’t been disclosed.

Lee’s lawsuit says Dre and Iovine each owned 15 percent stakes in the early stages of the Beats partnership.

Apple Inc., which now employs Dre and Iovine, declined to comment on the lawsuit. The

Cupertino company isn’t named in the complaint. Besides Dre and Iovine, the lawsuit targets HTC America Holding Ltd. and Paul Wachter, a Beats investor and board member.

Phone messages seeking comment were left for Dre’s attorney and a Beats publicist Tuesday evening.

The bitterness seeping through Lee’s lawsuit contradicts how Lee described the ending of the Beats partnership in a late 2013 interview with The Associated Press. At that time, Lee called it an “amicable” parting and said he was paid “very generously” in royalties.

This isn’t the first time that a former Beats partner has lashed out at Dre and Iovine in court. David Hyman, who sold his music streaming service MOG to Beats in 2012, is suing the two men for bad faith. That action, filed shortly before the Apple deal was sealed, is unfolding in Los Angeles Superior Court.



# ‘The Interview’ digital grosses total \$31 million, Sony says

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Sony Pictures’ “The Interview” has made more than \$31 million from its online and on-demand release, according to the studio.

Sony announced digital figures Tuesday for the film spanning its first 11 days of release since debuting Dec. 24. Sony had previously said the film made \$15 million in its first four days online, so demand for the Seth Rogen comedy has slightly declined as Sony has added

more platforms.

While \$31 million constitutes the most lucrative digital release for a Hollywood film, “The Interview” stood to make more in a wide theatrical release. It had originally been forecast to earn about \$30 million in its opening weekend alone.

Still, the significant total represents a sizable recoup for Sony after the film appeared dead. After hackers the FBI have said are North Korean threatened

violence in theaters showing the film, North America’s top theater chains pulled out of showing “The Interview” and Sony canceled its release entirely.

But cobbled-together release in independent theaters and digital outlets has proven modestly successful. Playing in select theaters, “The Interview” has made about \$5 million in two weeks. It’s currently playing in 558 theaters, far less than the approximately 3,000 it originally

planned to open in.

Sony has steadily increased digital operators in the last week, adding cable on-demand providers to a range of streaming options like YouTube and iTunes. The studio said the film has been rented, streamed or purchased 4.3 million times.

While the grosses will be divided with each distributor, Sony could potentially earn back the roughly \$40 million production budget for the comedy.

## Sting unable to save his musical ‘The Last Ship’ on Broadway

By **MARK KENNEDY**  
AP DRAMA WRITER

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Sting will be going down with his ship.

Producer Jeffrey Seller said Tuesday that the Grammy Award-winning songwriter’s Broadway musical “The Last Ship” will close when his stint in the show ends Jan. 24 at the Neil Simon Theatre.

Sting, who wrote the songs, jumped into the musical in early December, playing a shipyard foreman that had been portrayed by Jimmy Nail. While that improved sales, they didn’t skyrocket and the future looked bleak without him.

“We made the musical we wanted to make and we’re fiercely proud of it,” Seller said. “It’s been spectacular that Sting could be in it for its final weeks because now we go out with some degree of triumph. Not what I wanted. But some degree of triumph.”

“The Last Ship” is a semiautobiographical story about a prodigal son who returns to his northern England shipbuilding town to reclaim the girl he abandoned when he fled years before. He finds the workers are now unemployed and entertaining the idea of building one last boat to show off their skill and pride.

The \$15 million show has struggled at the box office, attributable in part to its challenging topic and mixed reviews. Seller said advance sales after Sting leaves to tour with Paul Simon were not enough to sustain the show: “After he leaves, the losses would be too great.”

Sting, born Gordon Sumner, drew on his childhood, growing up in Newcastle. He was last onstage on Broadway in the 1989 revival of “The Threepenny Opera.”

On the eve of joining the cast onstage, the singer acknowl-

edged his show faced tough odds: “This was never going to be easy. I didn’t anticipate a shoo-in at all. I expected a battle because I want to succeed against the odds.”

Seller on Tuesday paid tribute to Sting for jumping aboard the listing ship. “I am forever in admiration for him for the ferocity of his passion and his work ethic,” he said. “He didn’t just write it. He lives what he wrote.”

“The Last Ship” was written by Pulitzer Prize- and Tony-winning lyricist Brian Yorkey (“Next to Normal”) and Tony winner John Logan (“Red”), while Tony winner Joe Mantello (“Wicked”) directed. When it closes, it will have played 29 previews and 105 regular performances.

“I believe the show is a valuable, beautiful, remarkable piece of art,” Seller said. “And I believe it can last.” He noted that “Porgy and Bess” opened at the same theater—then the Alvin Theatre—in 1935 and also lasted just a few months. “It was a flop. Do you remember any other shows from that season?”

Other rock stars have joined shows they helped create, including Green Day frontman Billie Joe Armstrong, who made several onstage visits to his show “American Idiot.” But others—including Trey Anastasio from Phish—chose to stay offstage even after their shows sprung leaks.

Other rock and pop stars who have attempted to write musicals include Cyndi Lauper, Sheryl Crow, John Mellencamp, Sarah McLachlan, Alanis Morissette, Dave Stewart, Tori Amos, Edie Brickell, David Byrne and Fatboy Slim. For every Elton John, who found amazing success with “The Lion King,” there is U2’s Bono and The Edge, who were battered by “Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark.”

## Cameron Diaz marries Benji Madden at their Los Angeles home

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Cameron Diaz is a newlywed.

A spokesman for the actress confirms Diaz married musician Benji Madden on Monday night. Publicist Brad Cafarelli says the couple wed in an inti-



In this Dec. 16, 2014 file photo, actress Cameron Diaz poses for photographs during a photo call for the film Annie at the Corinthia hotel in central London.

mate ceremony at their Los Angeles home.

It’s the first marriage for the 42-year-old actress and the

35-year-old rocker. Madden’s twin brother and Good Charlotte band mate, Joel Madden, is married to Nicole Richie.

Diaz’s most recent film credits include “Annie,” “Sex Tape” and “The Other Woman.”

## Amy Poehler named Harvard’s Hasty Pudding woman of the year

**CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)**—Comedy star Amy Poehler has been named 2015 Woman of the Year by Harvard University’s Hasty Pudding Theatricals.

The group said Tuesday Poehler’s comedy “fits so well with the Pudding’s own tradition of satire and social



Poehler

commentary.”

Poehler has a 2014 Golden Globe award and five Emmy nominations for her role as Leslie Knope on the NBC comedy series “Parks and Recreation.” She co-hosts the Globes telecast Sunday with Tina Fey on NBC.

Hasty Pudding is the nation’s

oldest undergraduate drama troupe, dating to the late 18th century. Its annual awards go to performers who have made a lasting and impressive contribution. Last year’s winners were Helen Mirren and Neil Patrick Harris.

Poehler will get a parade and roast Jan. 29.

The man of the year will be announced later.

## Online search yields shocking news about live-in boyfriend

**DEAR ABBY:** Recently, a member of the family suggested that my mother Google the name of my sister’s new live-in boyfriend. (Another family member said he had done it months ago.) When Mom did, she saw that he is a convicted sex offender. We were all shocked as he has been very good to my sister and other members of the family.

So far, we haven’t said anything to my sister or her boyfriend, and I am unsure what to do. I have a small child and it makes me nervous. I don’t know if my sister knows, and I don’t know how to bring it up.

I am upset with my family member because he didn’t say anything immediately after finding this information. I’m upset at my sister if she knows and hasn’t been honest with us, and I am upset with this man. What should I do?

UPSET IN VIRGINIA

**DEAR UPSET:** First let me tell you what NOT to do. Do not remain silent and stew. Tell your sister everything you have written to me and ask if she’s aware that her live-in boyfriend is on a sex offender website. If his offense concerned a minor child, it is possible that he is not supposed to be around children—and if he has been that the authorities would like to

know. But first, discuss this with your sister who may—or may not—be able to put your fears to rest.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I have been dating a widower for a year. While he was eager to jump into the dating pool, he still has a mini shrine of his late wife’s ashes and belongings in their house. I can’t bring myself to have dinner or sleep over there with that overt presence.

He recently told me he’s saving her remains to be intermingled with his when he dies. It was among a long list of her afterlife instructions he described. He’s in good health. I figure he has 25 years—or more—life expectancy before the big event.

Realistically, shouldn’t I expect more than second best in his world? Is there a time limit for grieving, or does the deceased get to control her hubby from the other side?

WAITING AND WONDERING

**DEAR WAITING AND WONDERING:** Realistically, this has less to do with what you should “expect” than conclusions the widower must arrive at on his own. Ask him in a nonconfrontational way how he FEELS about carrying out all of his deceased wife’s wishes—and whether he thinks it is fair to

## DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



himself or you. Be prepared to discuss it without becoming emotional. His answers will tell you everything you need to know about a future with him.

**P.S. If your relationship with him is good, why not focus on the present and not worry about what happens to his body when he’s gone? However, if this is a deal breaker, then don’t invest any more time.**

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



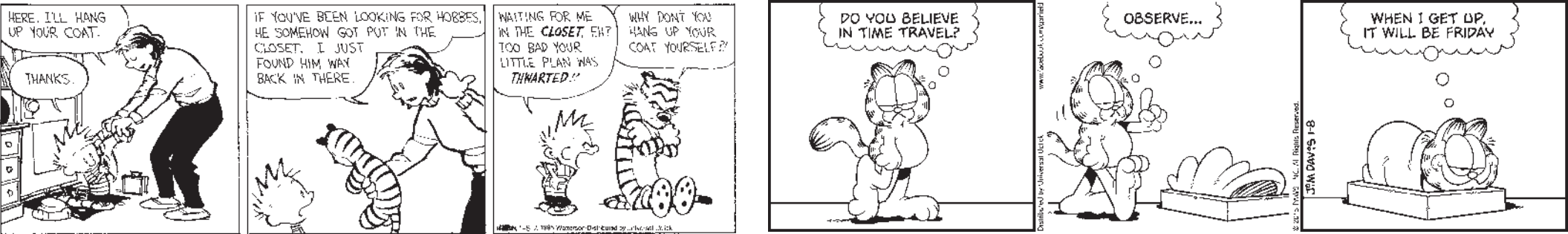
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

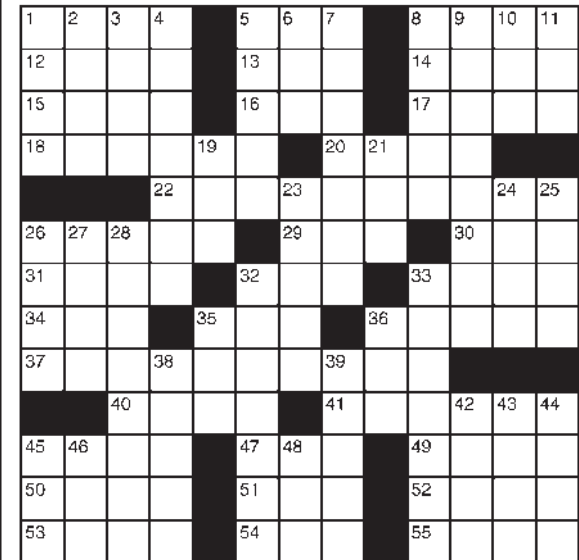
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Explosion sound
  - 5 Bill
  - 8 Wan
  - 12 Prom-goers' ride
  - 13 Carnival city
  - 14 Quaker pronoun
  - 15 Fore-shadow
  - 16 Altar affirmative
  - 17 Super-market stack
  - 18 Cooking oil seed
  - 20 Celebrity
  - 22 One way to quit
  - 26 Play for time
  - 29 Mardi Gras VIP
  - 30 A Gershwin brother
  - 31 Sharpen
  - 32 The girl
  - 33 Wield scissors
  - 34 — glance
  - 35 Clear the tables
- DOWN**
- 1 United nations
  - 2 Peru's capital
  - 3 "So be it"
  - 4 Prop for Mr. Peanut
  - 5 Ordeal
  - 6 Succor
  - 7 Supple-mentary dose
  - 8 Oil of roses
  - 9 Dodging duties
  - 10 Coop dweller
  - 11 "Of course"
  - 19 Texter's "that's funny"
  - 21 "Monkey suit"
  - 23 Frock
  - 24 One of HOMES
  - 25 Sounds from pounds
  - 26 Persian VIP
  - 27 Dorothy's dog
  - 28 Bane
  - 32 Obstruc-tions
  - 33 Shoulder bag
  - 35 Chignon
  - 36 Chart format
  - 38 Sucker
  - 39 Palatal pendant
  - 42 Author Morrison
  - 43 Auto-maker Ransom Eli —
  - 44 Take ten
  - 45 Potential syrup
  - 46 Web address
  - 48 "— the ramparts ..."

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 1-8



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Gaby Hoffmann, 33; Sarah Polley, 36; David Bowie, 68; Stephen Hawking, 73.

**Happy Birthday:** An outgoing approach will attract attention and allow you to experiment with new and innovative options personally and professionally. Your ability to dissect things and make improvements will ensure that you don't fall behind or stagnate. Participation is vital, along with the willingness to embrace new technology and methods that will make your life and future better. Your numbers are 5, 17, 24, 26, 35, 38, 42.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Ask for favors and offer something in return. Give-and-take will get you closer to the personal or professional goals you have set. Romance is in the stars, so try to begin making positive alterations to your lifestyle. ★★★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Put your energy into something constructive. Travel plans or dealing with institutions will lead to setbacks. No matter what you do, avoid being indulgent. It's best to be a minimalist to avoid unnecessary loss. ★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Your charm and desire to have fun and enjoy life will make interesting people gravitate to your side. Both at work and in your personal life, you will be able to bring about change and get the help required to do so. ★★★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** You will face uncertainty at home and at work. Problems will arise regarding the responsibilities you are given. Be honest about what

you can and cannot do. If someone makes you feel guilty, opt to walk away and do your own thing. ★★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** You can bring about favorable changes that will encourage a stable future if you are willing to make a move or alter your lifestyle to fit the economic and cultural changes going on around you. ★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Keep your private and personal life and thoughts a secret. Divulging information that will cause others to counter what you are doing will hinder your progress. Be a doer and don't look back. Let your creative imagination lead the way. ★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Make sure that everything is OK at home and with your personal relationships. Changes may need to be put into play if you want to keep the peace and avoid complaints. Make a concerted effort to share and show your true feelings. ★★★★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** You can keep busy and try to avoid trouble, but eventually someone will question your intentions. Have a well-thought-out answer prepared that will buy you time to put whatever you need in place. Protect your assets and possessions. ★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Talk is cheap, so be prepared to follow through with actions. If you are good to your word, you will meet with approval and be offered favors in return. Love is looking good, and romantic plans should be put into play. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Keep a watchful eye over the changes taking place around you at work, in your community and within your family. You may have to bend in order to avoid being caught in a situation that is compromising. Keep busy, but remain aware. ★★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Emotions will spin out of control if you don't stay on top of what's going on around you. A positive, helpful attitude will encourage good results, but trying to push or make demands on others will backfire. Diplomacy is key. ★★

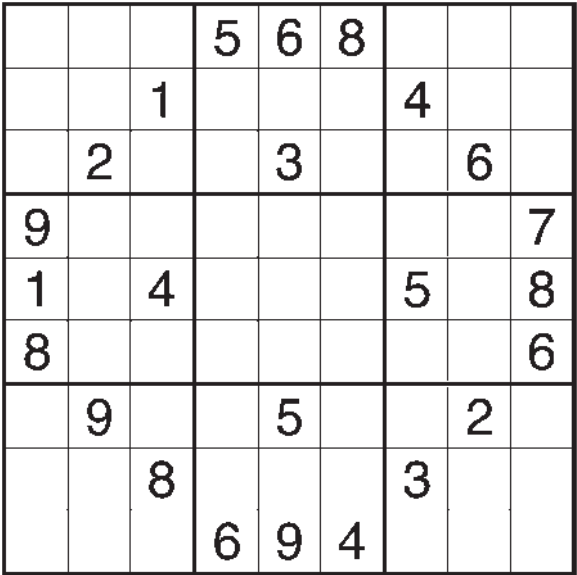
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** An alternative option is apparent, but it will require you to remain secretive until you are ready to launch your plans. Don't be surprised if someone comes out of the woodwork looking for a piece of the action. ★★

**Birthday Baby:** You are energetic, progressive and imaginative. You are determined, dedicated and practical.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

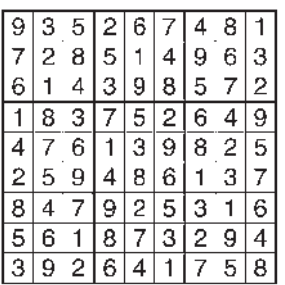


Difficulty Level ★★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FOUND IN A HARDWARE STORE Solution: 6 letters



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**Yesterday's Answer: Neck Beard**  
Treasury 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 or 18 can be purchased online in time for the holidays at [www.WonderWordBooks.com](http://www.WonderWordBooks.com). (Contains 130 puzzles.)



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# Martinez, Johnson among 4 voted to Hall

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Randy Johnson, Pedro Martinez and John Smoltz dominated in an era of offense, each in their own way.

The 6-foot-10 Big Unit became the tallest of 215 players elected to baseball's Hall of Fame and the 5-foot-11 Martinez the shortest pitcher picked for Cooperstown since Whitey Ford in 1974.

Smoltz, who found unusual success both as a starting pitcher and a reliever, also was voted in Tuesday along with Craig Biggio, the first time since 1955 writers picked a quartet of players in one year.

For many, the election of Johnson and Martinez was the long and short of it.

"You're talking about freakish talent," Smoltz said. "I've never seen at each person's height anybody come close to what they were able to do."

Johnson, Martinez and Smoltz were crowned by big margins on their first tries, the first trio of pitchers voted in together by the writers. Biggio made it on his third attempt after falling two votes shy last year.

Steroids-tainted stars Roger Clemens, Barry Bonds, Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa again fell far short of half of the votes and appear to have little chance of reaching the necessary 75 percent during their remaining time on the Baseball Writers' Association of America ballot.

"It's actually sad, to be honest. It's sad," Martinez said. "People I admired are not going in with me."

The quartet will be inducted in Cooperstown on July 26. The BBWAA had not voted in four players together since selecting Joe DiMaggio, Gabby Hartnett, Ted Lyons and Dazzy Vance 60 years earlier.

A five-time Cy Young Award winner with 303 victories and 4,875 strikeouts, Johnson was selected on 534 of 549 ballots by BBWAA members who have been with the organization for 10 consecutive years at any point. The left-hander appeared on 97.3 percent of the ballots, the eighth-highest mark in the history of voting.

Outfielder Dave Winfield (6-foot-6), elected in 2001, had been the tallest Hall of Famer, according to STATS.

"I don't think people quite understand how difficult it is to be 6-foot-10 and be throwing a ball 60 feet, 6 inches away," Johnson said. "In order to do that, you have to consistent with your release point and where you're landing and your arm slot and all that. For someone 6-1, 6-2, there's less body to keep under control, so it's a lot easier."

A three-time Cy Young winner with flamboyance to go along with his fastball, Martinez appeared on 500 ballots



Former Boston Red Sox pitcher Pedro Martinez, left, arrives with his wife Carolina and Red Sox media relations director Kevin Gregg, right, for a news conference Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2015, at Fenway Park, in Boston, after being elected to baseball's Hall of Fame. Martinez, a three-time Cy Young winner, helped the Red Sox to their first World Series title in 86 years in 2004.

## S I D E B A R

### Halls door shut again to those suspected of steroid use

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Roger Clemens, Barry Bonds, Sammy Sosa and Mark McGwire's chances to enter the Hall of Fame are dwindling.

Baseball writers so far overwhelmingly have decided the outsized statistics of the Steroids Era stars are tarnished by their connection to performance-enhancing drugs use.

Once again Tuesday, Cooperstown's doors remained shut.

"I did it the only way I knew how, and I wanted to do it clean," Pedro Martinez said Tuesday after he was elected along with Randy Johnson, John Smoltz and Craig Biggio. "And the integrity of the way I did is probably the reason of me going to the Hall of Fame on the first ballot."

For emphasis during a news conference at Boston's Fenway Park, the Dominican right-hander held open his navy blazer to show off his wiry frame, a stark contrast to the bulked-up bodies that personi-

(91.1 percent). He was 219-100, struck out 3,154, led the major leagues in ERA five times and in 2004 helped the Boston Red Sox to their first World Series title in 86 years.

Martinez followed Juan Marichal (1983) as the second Do-

fied the years offense reigned.

Clemens, the only seven-time Cy Young Award winner, and Bonds the home run king and only seven-time MVP, failed in their third turns on the ballot.

Smoltz voiced approval of drug testing in 2000, two years before players and owners reached a joint drug agreement for the first time since 1985.

"This great game and the game that I personally love has found a way to for the time being, to make it sure that it again has back the integrity and the legitimacy that it needs so that fans, the great fans of baseball, do not sit there and wonder what they're watching, is it legitimate or not?" Smoltz said.

Clemens received support on 37.5 percent of the ballots and Bonds 36.8 percent. The situations of McGwire and Sosa are more dire.

The duo, who electrified the nation with a dizzying home run chase in the sum-

mer of 1998, are on the verge of dropping out of contention altogether. Because of a rules change last summer that limits a player's years of eligibility from 15 to 10, McGwire has one more chance at receiving the necessary 75 percent vote from the Baseball Writers' Association of America. This year he received his lowest vote total yet, 10 percent, and he never was named on more than 23.7 percent of the ballots since he's been eligible in 2007.

Sosa survived being swept off the ballot by nine votes, receiving recognition by just 36 of 549 voters (6.6 percent) after just three years. A 5 percent threshold is needed to remain on the ballot.

Gary Sheffield received little attention in his first year on the ballot, getting 11.7 percent. He hit 509 home runs and says he only accidentally took a PED.

Mike Piazza and Jeff Bagwell, two players who have fallen under suspicion of use

but were never caught up in any investigation, fell short, too, though Piazza could gain admittance next year. He received 69.9 percent in his third year, a steady rise. Bagwell is up to 55.7 percent.

"I realize the cloud has covered a multitude of so many different people and I realize that the media and people have a hard time distinguishing and determining, and in time maybe it will become clearer for all parties involved," Smoltz said.

The future for players who've fallen under suspicion might be a bit brighter, though. The ballot could expand next year to 12 votes for each writer. Ken Griffey Jr. appears to be the only sure thing among a newcomer group that also includes Trevor Hoffman and Billy Wagner.

"It's actually sad, to be honest. It's sad," Martinez said. "People I admired are not going in with me."

reminded me you've got to be serious about your job," Martinez recalled. "I saw everybody as an enemy, and I saw everybody as like in a jungle: You just kill to survive. And that's the intensity and the focus I had to keep to do it every day on a day-

to-day basis. And that's the kind of chip on the shoulder that people thought I had, even though that was my way to concentrate and do the day to day things that I did in baseball."

Smoltz was on 455 ballots (82.9 percent). The 1996 NL

Cy Young winner was 213-155 with 154 saves, the only pitcher with 200 wins and 150 saves. He went 15-4 in the postseason during a 21-year career that included 3 1/2 seasons in the bullpen when he returned slowly following elbow surgery that sidelined him for the 2000 season.

He combined with Greg Maddux and Tom Glavine to form a starting rotation that was the primary factor in Atlanta's record 14 consecutive playoff appearances. Now Smoltz will join the pair in the Hall following their inductions last July.

"The three of us share such a unique bond that I don't think anyone really feels any different than the other person, although I can tell you that I'm not in their class when it talks about the numbers that they put up," Smoltz said. "But I'm probably not in anyone's class because of the strangeness of my career and the uniqueness of what I did."

Biggio appeared on 454 ballots, 42 more than needed and up from 68.2 percent in his first appearance and 74.8 percent last year. A catcher who shifted to second base and spent three seasons in the outfield, he had 3,060 hits and 668 doubles in 20 big league seasons, all with the Houston Astros.

"I was a nervous dog this morning. I haven't been this anxious in a long time," Biggio said. "Maybe it does mean a little bit more this year."

Mike Piazza fell 28 votes short but increased his percentage to 69.9 from 57.8 in 2013 and 62.2 last year.

Both making their third appearances, Clemens received 37.5 percent and Bonds 36.8 percent. In his ninth and next-to-last year of eligibility, McGwire got 10 percent - less than half his peak of 23.6 percent in 2008. Sosa was on 6.6 percent of the ballots, just above the 5 percent threshold for remaining on next year's list.

Don Mattingly received 9.1 percent in his 15th and final appearance on the ballot. Under a change made by the Hall's board last summer, players' eligibility was cut from 15 years to 10 but the 11-15 group was grandfathered.

Among the 17 first-time eligibles who will be dropped are Carlos Delgado (3.8 percent) and players' association head Tony Clark, who did not get any votes.

Ken Griffey Jr., Trevor Hoffman and Billy Wagner are among the players eligible for the first time in next year's ballot.

But first, this summer's induction. Biggio, the only offensive player, was 0 for 14 against Johnson but hit .302 against Martinez (13 for 43) and .260 versus Smoltz (27 for 104).

"Actually, I got a hit off of Randy in spring training one time," Biggio said, "but it didn't count."



# Pistons rally in final seconds to stun Spurs



**SAN ANTONIO** (AP)—The San Antonio Spurs kept giving the Detroit Pistons hope. Brandon Jennings made the most of a last-second opening.

The Pistons guard took a bad inbound pass by Tim Duncan and drove the length of the court in the final seven seconds, weaving through San Antonio's backpedaling defenders, to bank in an 11-foot jumper. The shot Tuesday lifted Detroit to its sixth straight victory, 105-104.

His bucket backed up double-doubles from Andre Drummond and Greg Monroe and the Pistons rallied from 18 points down in the first half.

"We are getting better," Detroit coach Stan Van Gundy said. "If you stay in there, sometimes you get a break. We had a very good break at the end. We got lucky at the end. Our resolve to stay in the game right down to the last few seconds was huge."

Drummond had 20 points and 17 rebounds and Monroe added 17 points and 11 boards, as the Pistons snapped a four-game skid in San Antonio (21-15). D.J. Augustin added 19 points for Detroit (11-23), which has not lost since waiving Josh Smith on Dec. 22.

San Antonio point guard Tony Parker played just 13 minutes in his return from a five-game absence due to a strained left hamstring. He was 0-for-3 shooting and had just two assists, but he did not appear to aggravate the injury.

"He wanted to play, but I'm being conservative," coach Gregg Popovich said. "He had 13 minutes. That's good after sitting out as long as he did; make sure he doesn't reinjure the thing."

Parker had missed 13 games total due to the injury, returning twice for a single game only to aggravate his hamstring. The Spurs were 6-7 in Parker's absence.

It was part of an odd night for the defending NBA champions.

The Spurs rallied behind five 3-pointers in the fourth quarter, but were 4 for 7 on free throws in the final 2 minutes.

San Antonio opted to intentionally foul Detroit's Jodie Meeks after Patty Mills made 1 of 2 free throws with 10.8 seconds left to give the Spurs a 104-101 lead.

Popovich was succinct when asked why he fouled in that situation.

"Because I wanted to," he said.



San Antonio Spurs' Cory Joseph, right, passes around Detroit Pistons' Greg Monroe (10) during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2015, in San Antonio. Detroit won, 105-104.

Meeks made both shots, pulling the Pistons within 104-103 with eight seconds remaining.

Those final eight seconds were the only time Duncan was on the court in the final quarter.

"I made different choices," Popovich said of his decision to sit Duncan.

Duncan's inbound pass went off Mills' hands and was gathered by Kentavious Caldwell-Pope, who passed it to Jennings. Unsure if there was a timeout remaining, Jennings charged down court.

"Once I got to the frontcourt, I was open for the 3, but I was like, 'I'm not going to shoot the 3,'" Jennings said. "Once I saw (Boris) Diaw get on the outside, I've got a good opportunity to go past him and I shot the floater off the glass."

After an official review, 0.1

seconds were placed on the clock, but the Spurs were unable to tip the ball before time expired.

Jeff Ayres had a season-high 16 points and Duncan added 15 for the Spurs (21-15).

After trailing by 18 points early in the second quarter, Detroit opened the third on a 23-11 run to take its first lead of the game. The surge included a 10-0 run capped by a pair of free throws by Monroe for a 72-69 lead with 5:11 remaining.

## Suns 102, Bucks 96

In Milwaukee, no chance of a let-down for the Phoenix Suns.

Markieff Morris scored 26 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to lead the Suns to a 102-96 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks on Tuesday night.

A bright spot for the Bucks was the return of center Larry Sanders, even if he was in street clothes and sitting on the bench. He missed his seventh consecutive game due, at first, to the flu, but since then for personal reasons.

"It feels great to be around the guys again," Sanders said. His last game was Dec. 23, and he said that rumors he might even quit basketball weren't true.

"But, what is true," he said, "is that I'm in the process of working things out now to do as best for my psyche and my physical health going forward. There's a lot of evaluating going on."

Phoenix (21-16) was coming off its second-highest scoring total of the season in Sunday's 125-109 win at home over Atlantic Division-leading Toronto.

## SIDEBAR

### Jackson's moves leave Knicks looking to the future, again

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Phil Jackson won more championships than anyone as a coach, and seems committed to losing big in his first season as an executive.

Maybe he's right, and trading J.R. Smith and Iman Shumpert for financial reasons is the best and quickest way to build for the future.

But the New York Knicks tried the same strategy just a few years ago and never got close to championship contention, so Jackson will have to do better this summer with the loads of cash he'll have for free agency and the high draft pick he'll have courtesy of this miserable season.

There will be around \$25 million to spend and eventually maybe more for a free agent class that could include Marc Gasol, LaMarcus Aldridge and Rajon Rondo, and whatever other players Jackson hopes will focus more on the dollar signs than the standings.

That's for later. For now, there will be losses—a lot of them—across another cold basketball winter in New York.

"I think our front office will continue to look at what we can do to replace a couple of these guys, but also how we're going to build our roster going forward in the short term and in the long term," coach Derek Fisher said. "So we're not giving up on what we're trying to do at this point in terms of this season. I think each move still symbolizes what we need to do in order to try and get better as we build this."

Already headed toward what could be the worst season in franchise history, the Knicks traded away two of their best players Monday when they sent Smith and Shumpert to Cleveland in a three-team deal that also included Oklahoma City. That frees them from worrying about Smith picking up his \$6.4 million option for next season, or deciding on whether to keep Shumpert, a former first-round pick.

New York also waived center Samuel Dalembert.

Losers of 12 in a row and

owning an NBA-worst 5-32 record, the Knicks got back nothing that will help them now, especially if Carmelo Anthony remains sidelined by his sore left knee. They have fallen behind the Philadelphia 76ers, who were supposed to be a lock for last, and could look more inept than ever the next time they play at Madison Square Garden, a nationally televised game against Houston on Thursday.

This wasn't thought to be Jackson's plan in his first full season as president of operations. He talked of being able to contend for the playoffs - not exactly a big boast in an Eastern Conference where five games below .500 currently means a playoff berth.

But building for the future outweighs salvaging the present. Jackson always had at least two great players on every one of the NBA-record 11 championship teams that he coached, and he knows for now he only has Anthony, to whom he gave a five-year, \$124 million contract last summer.

The quest to find another will start at the draft lottery, 30 years after the Knicks won the first one and drafted Patrick Ewing. Then it will heat up July 1, when Jackson will try to persuade players to picture a future in New York while ignoring the present.

That plan sounded good six years ago, when the Knicks traded Zach Randolph and Jammal Crawford early in a promising season to set themselves up for a shot at LeBron James in the summer of 2010. They ended up with Amare Stoudemire, whose knees were never the same after that first season and is sidelined again as he nears the expiration of the \$100 million deal he signed that summer.

That will leave little on the books beyond the roughly \$30 million that will be owed to Anthony and Jose Calderon, whom Jackson acquired last summer from Dallas in his first move. With Tyson Chandler's strong season for the Mavericks, that trade looks worse each day.

# NFL admits error in Lions-Cowboys game



**NEW YORK** (AP)—NFL head of officiating Dean Blandino isn't trying to sugarcoat the key call that went against the Lions in Sunday's loss to the Cowboys.

Blandino, appearing on PFT Live, told Mike Florio that Cowboys linebacker Anthony Hitchens did get away with a penalty on the Lions' fourth-

quarter pass to Brandon Pettigrew. But Blandino said the missed call that troubled him most was not the pass interference flag that was originally thrown but later picked up.

According to Blandino, the clear penalty Hitchens got away with was defensive holding. Hitchens grabbed Pettigrew's jersey while Pettigrew was running his route, and Blandino said that

should have been called. If it had been, it would have given the Lions an automatic first down.

Blandino said the pass interference penalty that one official flagged, only to get overruled by another official, was a "close call that could have went either way." Blandino acknowledged that the officials should have done a better job of communicating, first among themselves so that they

could get the call right, and then after referee Pete Morelli turned on his microphone to announce the penalty. Morelli first announced pass interference, then later announced that the pass interference penalty would not be enforced — but that second announcement was so hasty that the FOX broadcast missed it.

Although some observers have suggested that Pettigrew also

should have been flagged for facemasking Hitchens, Blandino says that's not the case.

"I felt that was minimal contact," Blandino said of Pettigrew's contact with Hitchens's facemask.

Cowboys receiver Dez Bryant ran onto the field to argue the pass interference call, and Blandino said Bryant could have been flagged for that. Blandino said running on the field to argue with an official is "not an automatic penalty," but

he added that "I certainly would have supported a call for unsportsmanlike conduct."

Ultimately, Blandino admits, if all of the elements of that play had been called correctly, the Lions would have had a first down. Instead the Lions had a fourth down, shanked a punt, and gave up the game-winning touchdown on the subsequent drive. The Lions will be left to wonder what might have happened if that penalty on Hitchens had been called.



# Pacific Games preparations in full swing

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



The organizing committee of the XV Pacific Games reported that preparations for the 2015 edition of the quadrennial sporting event are going ahead as scheduled with the people of Papua New Guinea eager to welcome more than 3,000 athletes and officials this July.

Games Organizing Committee chief executive officer Peter Stewart, in an email sent to member nations, said they are confident that everything will go on as planned since they are leaving no stone unturned to make sure of the smooth flow of the Pacific Games in Port Moresby.

"We are very confident that the Games will be delivered as planned because of the number of critical and very important things we have achieved and committed for," said Stewart.

The 15th edition of the Pacific Games is scheduled from July 4 to 18 with 26 sports spread out in different venues in Port Moresby. The opening and closing ceremonies will be held at the Sir John Guise Precinct outdoor stadium.

The GOC has already awarded 50 contracts to various local-based companies for various goods and services that would be provided in the 2015 Pacific Games.

Creative and events company Makoda will produce the opening and closing ceremonies. Eurest (PNG) Catering & Services Ltd. will supply the daily meals, while Lae Ever Clean will provide the cleaning services.

## SBA

From Page 28

finals.

Villavicencio, before winning last year's tournament, was a perennial bridesmaid for three straight years and four of the last five seasons.

## MHS

From Page 28

even enjoyed a 16-point spread entering the final period but failed to prevent a late scoring surge by Kagman, as the Ayuyus threatened late in the game.

A Dean Mendiola twinner sparked a 16-6 exchange, as the Ayuyus trimmed the Dolphins' lead to single digit, 32-38, with 1:54 left on the clock.

Arceo scored 14 straight points in that run, including back-to-back 3-point plays to the delight of the Kagman bench.

But that proved to be the Ayuyus' last stand as they missed easy baskets and committed turnover after turnover down the stretch.

A De Luna layup in the 1:32



PNG 2015 PACIFIC GAMES PHOTO  
Tura, left, the official mascot for the 2015 Pacific Games, and another character, greet visitors of the main headquarters of host Papua New Guinea.

Stewart said the three areas are critical parts of their preparations that's why the GOC tapped the most competent and experienced goods and services providers in PNG.

Pindu Transport is assigned to transport athletes and officials

She placed second to Emi Williams in 2008, was a back-to-back runner-up to Omechel-ang from 2010 to 2011, and was again foiled by Camacho in 2012.

Cal topped the 2009 edition of the annual tournament after beating Camacho.

mark of the fourth period ended MHS' scoring drought, while Mendoza's basket with 54 ticks left brought the lead back to 10.

Action in the MISO caging continues tomorrow with MHS junior varsity facing MHS 9 at 4pm and Saipan International School meeting Marianas Baptist Academy in the second match at 5:20pm. Southern takes on Mt. Carmel School in the 6:30pm nightcap.

**MHS 42**—De Luna 11, Prado 9, Mendoza 8, Hofschneider 4, Mamaril 4, Manglona 2, Huli-ganga 2.

**Kagman 32**—Arceo 23, Agulto 3, Mendiola 2, Rabauliman 2, Santos 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 9-6, 22-9, 32-16, 42-32.

from their quarters to the game venues and back. Agility will be the Games' logistics provider, while the GOC has awarded broadcast rights to eight media partners, three of which are from Papua New Guinea.

Athletics, basketball, beach soccer, beach volleyball, bodybuilding, boxing, cricket, football, hockey, karate, lawn bowls, lawn tennis, powerlifting, rugby 7s, rugby league, shooting squash, table tennis, taekwondo, touch rugby, triathlon, va'a, volleyball, weightlifting, and the medal rich swimming are the sports offered in

the 15th edition of the quadrennial sporting event.

American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Tahiti, New Caledonia, Niue, Norfolk Island, Tokelau, Wallis and Futuna, and the CNMI are the participating nations in this year's Games.

The Commonwealth will be competing only in 5 events in PNG: athletics, beach volleyball, bodybuilding, lawn tennis, and triathlon.

## OL'ACES

From Page 28

closely fought match. Montes went on to top-score for the Ol'Aces with his 21 points, while De Luna chipped in 19 off the bench.

Lefty shooter Jethro Cruz had 19 points to lead Rollers 2, which absorbed its first loss in three games. Cruz found his target early, as he knocked in two triples in the first few minutes of the opening half to threaten a Rollers 2 breakaway, 14-6.

However, Montes and De Luna came to the Ol'Aces' rescue, teaming up in an 11-2 run to grab the upper hand, 17-16.

The match remained tight in the remainder of the first half,

which ended with the Ol'Aces clinging to a 2-point advantage 26-24, after Montes canned a pair of free throws.

Montes continued to attack Rollers 2's defense in the second half and with their foes going over the foul limit, he and De Luna managed to earn the needed points to lift the Ol'Aces to their second consecutive win.

In the first U19 match, Kagman Risers dominated the winless Rollers 3, 68-53.

Kagman led by 25 points at the end of the first half, 40-15, and never looked back to barge into the win column after a 0-2 start and hand Rollers 3 its third defeat in as many matches.

Three Kagman players broke into double figures in their easy

# Astig Futsal, Real Crispy Pata win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Astig Futsal showed no mercy in whipping Orange Rangers, 14-0, in their boys U15 match in the 2014 SSS Christmas Youth Futsal Tournament last Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex.

James Ermitanio, Mareko Tekopua, and Junsik Kim scored three goals apiece to power Astig Futsal to the lopsided win. Hark Galarion added two goals, while Joshua De Leon, Ryan Relucio, and Anthony Fruit chipped in one each.

Tekopua and Kim made it to the board twice in the first half to give Astig Futsal a promising 6-0 advantage. Galarion and Ermitanio drilled the two other goals in the first 20 minutes of play. In the last 20 minutes of the match, Astig Futsal still played no let-up adding eight more goals with Ermitanio firing two to complete

the hat-trick and duplicate Tekopua and Kim's feats.

In the other boys U15 tiff last weekend, Real Crispy Pata shut down Matansa Blazers, 2-0.

Sunjoon Tenorio and Joshua Abragan tallied two goals apiece for Real Crispy Pata, hitting one each in the first and second half.

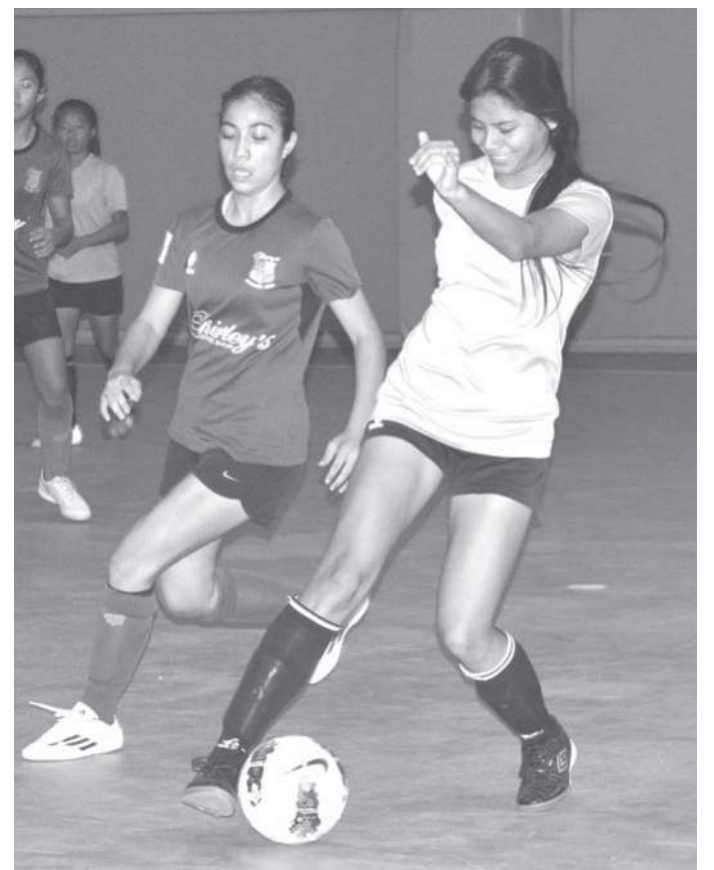
In other results, Team Betde pulled off a close win in the co-ed U12 game, while the lone girls U15 match last Sunday ended in a draw.

Matansa Sparks and Girly Flowers & Rainbows collided in the girls match and settled for a 2-2 draw.

Mary Alferos and Gillian Vilagomes scored for Girly Flowers & Rainbows, while Matansa drew its two goals from Angel Sally and Bernadette Horey.

In the co-ed U12, Team Betde edged Orange Rangers, 6-4.

Thaiphil Austria was again the star in Team Betde's fourth win, as he scored five goals, four of them came in the second half.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Girly Flowers & Rainbows player, right, uses her right knee to beat Lady Blues' Negahr Rastguily for the ball possession during their game in the 2014 SSS Christmas Youth Futsal Tournament last month at the TSL Sports Complex.

win with Jonathan Santos scoring 24, Andrew Palino adding 15, and Wayne Li contributing 13.

Palino anchored Kagman's strong start, knocking in 13 of his total points in the first half, including 7 straight markers midway in that period. Santos also had twin digits right at the end of the first half, making 10.

Santos was still at it in the second half and found a new partner in Li, who nailed Kagman's first 6 markers in that final half.

Angelo Factor led Rollers 3's losing cause with his 16 points, while Aaron Ogumoro also finish in double figures with his 12 markers.

Meanwhile, results of the lone women's open division game

last Tuesday will be reported in *Saipan Tribune's* Friday edition.

## First Game

**Kagman 68**—Jo. Santos 24, Palino 15, Li 13. Yu 5, Je. Santos 4, Param 3. Racadio 2.

**Rollers 3 53**—Factor 16, Ogumoro 12, Arceo 8, Yu 8, Tengco 5, Mendoza 2.

**Scoring by halves:** 40-15, 68-53.

## Second Game

**Ol'Aces 65**—Montes 21, De Luna 19, Nakashima 10, Cristobal 7, Emitanio 3, Miller 3.

**Rollers 2 62**—Cruz 18, Alipio 16, Dancoe 10, Rios 8, Ellama 6, Deocares 4.

**Scoring by halves:** 26-24, 65-62.



# 2014 Choco Milk Cup Final Round

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



MP United players and coaches pose with their certificates and trophy after prevailing in the 2014 Choco Milk Cup Final Round held last month at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.



Some Matansa Football Club players check their third place trophy.



NMIFA technical director and CNMI coach Kiyoshi Sekiguchi hands the fairplay award to Matansa Football Club.



National Elite Academy U12 players pose for a group photo.



MP United's Mark Esalan poses with CNMI coach Kiyoshi Sekiguchi after receiving the Golden Boot award.



A National Elite Academy player, second right, tries to move away from MP United defenders.



National Elite Academy's Taka Borja shows his Golden Glove trophy.



National Elite Academy and MP United players wait for the resumption of action.



National Elite Academy and MP United players line up before the start of the awards ceremony.



An MP United player receives their championship trophy from NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta.





## All hail SBA Queen Diana

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**D**iana Camacho made a winning return in the 2014 Budweiser Queen of the Lanes after topping Sunday's finale of the Saipan Bowling Association-organized tournament held at the Saipan Bowling Center in San Jose.



Camacho, who skipped last year's event, made sure Yho Villavicencio won't be a repeat champion. She gained an automatic finals berth after topping the eight-game roll-off with 1,377 pin-falls to clinch the No.1 seeding and the twice-to-beat edge that goes with it.

Camacho, a perennial contender in the monthly roll-offs enjoyed an 88-pin-falls lead over Gloria Omechelang's 1,289, while Villavicencio, the last year's champion, finished third overall (1,289).

Omechelang and Villavicencio met in the semifinals with the latter scoring a 7-pin win over her fellow veteran, 156-149, to earn the right of facing Camacho in the finals.

It was Camacho's fourth Queen of the Lanes crown and first since ruling the tournament in 2012. She also topped the finale in 2005 and 2007.

Camacho, before the finals, was a consistent contender in the monthly roll-offs, winning five of the 12 competitions. She won back-to-back in June and July and duplicated the feat in November and December, while also topping the September tournament.

Camacho, in the finale, had a roller-coaster 8-game series and failed to bowl in the 200s this time. She recorded 171, 176, 165, 162, 198, 180, 178, and 147 for that 1,377 tally and a 172.13 average.

Omechelang, on the other hand, started out strong with 205 and 182, but faltered midway with a 147, 152, 159 and 167. Her 129 in the seventh game and a closing 148 proved



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Diana Camacho, right, joins Ador Dimaano for a photo as they ruled the December roll-off of the Saipan Bowling Association 2014 Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes. Camacho topped the Queen of the Lanes finale held last Sunday.

to be disastrous as she failed to clinch the top ranking. She averaged 161.13.

Villavicencio bowled 155, 181, 133, 204, 143, 150, 178 and 126 to register 1,270 and posted a 158.75 average. Janice Camacho (1,248), Elena Soll (1,241), Tess Fabie (1,219), Carrie Camacho (1,209), Rosalinda I. Cal (1,205), Lala Taitano (1,135) and Gigi Zapanta (1,054) were the other female bowlers who competed in the

See SBA on Page 26

## Back-to-back for Ol'Aces

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



The Ol'Aces notched their second straight victory in the U19 division of the 2014 Tan Holdings Basketball Classic after slipping past Rollers 2, 65-62, last Tuesday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The Ol'Aces, who got their first win last week against Sun Palace Hotel after dropping their debut to the 670 Sonics, hit important free throws in

the homestretch to eke out the 3-point victory over the Rollers 2.

Adrian De Luna made three charities, while Tristan Montes added a pair for the Ol'Aces' last 5 points in the

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Ol'Aces' Tristan Montes attacks the defense of Rollers 2's Antonio Santos, left, and Joel Subang during the first half of their U19 game in the 2014 Tan Holdings Basketball Classic last Tuesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

## MHS 9 opens MISO caging with win

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Marianas High School 9 started the 2014-2015 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League with a 42-32 win over Kagman High School 9 yesterday at the MHS Gymnasium.

Two other games were also played on opening day with the junior varsity squads of Kagman and Saipan Southern High School colliding in the second match and defending champion MHS and Grace Christian Academy playing in the last tiff. However, results of these games were unavailable at presstime.

Adrian De Luna scattered 11 points to lead MHS 9 in the low scoring ballgame, while John Carlo Prado and John Mendoza added 9 and 8 markers, respectively.

Christian Arceo led all scorers with 23 points but failed to get the needed offensive support from the rest of the Kagman crew.

MHS 9 led from the start and

See MHS on Page 26

JON PEREZ

Kagman High School's Patrick Santos, 2, fouls Marianas High School 9's John Carlo Prado during their game in the 2014 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League yesterday at the MHS Gymnasium.

